THE MESSENGER.

"AS THE TRUTH IS IN JESUS."

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Poetry.

TU SCENDI DALLE STELLE.

Great King, from Heaven's high throne descending low,
In Bethlehem's stable born in cold and woe,
Thou shiverest in the manger, Babe Divine,
Much hast Thou borne for sins, how much for mine!
The world's Creator Thou, our God Adored.
Thou sufferest cold and want, O Humbled Lord:
Dear chosen Child, when Love transforms Thee so,
For Thee my heart with love shall glow.
In joy reposing on thy Father's Breast,
How can a couch of straw afford Thee rest.
Sweet Love, thus pained, inflame, my frozen heart:
Jesus, to me Thy purest Love impart.
If thus to suffer was Thy gracious will
Yet Loving Savior, but let me ask Thee still,
What could Thy blissful soul to suffering move?
Thou weepest, not for grief, ah no! for love.
Thou grievest, after all to see
Thyself so little loved, O God by me:
Yet, if the past so little love has shown,
I love Thee now, O Jesus, Thee alone.

—*St. Alphonzo.*

Communications.

For The Messenger.

A STUDY OF ALGIERS.—NO. 2.

Rev. A. T. Olinger.

As our course of life is an extended span, that has a commencement, and a destiny, so every important journey begins with a point of departure, and ends in a particular landing-place, the goal hoped for; especially is this the case when a greater or smaller sea voyage is to be made. Scarcely is the traveler incorporated into friendship's new circle, which often assumes a pleasing character, when he feels that the briny deep separates him from land and holds him in his small compass. But he easily imagines himself having been aroused from a sweet dream when the packet boat brings him in sight of his journey's end, and a world of interest emerges out of the distant mists. Of such a nature is our journey from Marseilles to the city of Algiers and its extremely grand vicinity.

Having taken leave of Marseilles, let us speedily pass through the gulf of Lyons and cross the Mediterranean sea along the majestic mountains of the Balearic isles. Coming within sight of Algiers the traveler believes himself at once entranced and feels constrained to rouse himself, as it were, out of a dream, when placed before this, the most beautiful of oriental cities. Indeed this first glance, which gave rise to an involuntary sensation of surprise and astonishment, corresponds to reality. The closer the vessel approaches the city, the more charmingly is it unfolded before our eyes. The snow-clad mountains of this burning climate are gradually transformed into the white-walled houses of Eastern architecture. A beautiful contrast now comes to view: at the foot of the three hills, and extending to the shore lies a city, built according to European fashion, while another distinct city of oriental architecture is built on the side of the hills reaching to the very summits. Each abounds in objects of interest, but the latter is the more impressive because of its wonderful nature. Standing at the foot of this mountain we can look upon the harbor we have left, built of blocks of marble, and the sculptured wall along the port, in whose arches extending several miles the stores, warehouses, hotels and other business places of the city are built.

From the level of these beautiful stores a winding staircase leads to the French portion of Algiers, where in the public square the grandest mosque, of circular shape and surrounded with palm trees, is the ornament of the place. Having arrived here and satiated the eyes with all that seems so strange, we are at once attracted to the mosque, whose entrance becomes the object of our search. After descending another flight of steps we stand before the colossal mosque, which was spared by the French government because of its historic value and architectural beauty. The entrance is in the form of an arch, which is snpported by finely sculptured triple columns. Having gained admittance, a fountain at first meets our notice, that empties into a basin of granite; here the Arabs, according to religious rite perform their ablutions before entering into the shrine to worship. This custom, conforming to that of the Jews (who are nevertheless their bitterest enemies,) is prescribed in their Koran by the prophet Mahomet, who traces their lineal offspring to Abraham. The line of posterity is explained thus: after Hagar with her son Ishmael had been exiled by the patriarch, and had wandered in the desert for some time, she was kindly received by the people of the kingdom of Hedjaz, founded by Jurham, a son of Shem. Ishmael married the daughter of Modad, a reigning prince and descendant of Jurham. His twelve sons gained dominion over the country, and their progeny spread over other lands, keeping the faith of their prophet.

The inner beauty of the mosque shows that these Arabs are natural artists, for their workmanship is in nowise inferior to that of more cultured nations. The whole interior of this temple rises before us as a grand panorama, perfect in all its parts, and its interest is increased by the fact that all seems strange. The floor is covered with variously colored knitted mats, made of prepared palm leaves and bark braided together. The whole space is open, without chair or pew for the audience. The walls are decked profusely with paintings of great worth, giving the whole an enchanting appearance. The holy shrine is filled with pictures and glittering vessels; gigantic candles that are lighted on special occasions, stand on marble pedestals, and swinging torches with colored lights stud the apartment. The sight is imposing and must fill the worshiper with reverence. In the centre of the mosque is the rostrum, built upon marble columns and covered with an exquisite baldachin, which can be ascended from the four sides by elaborate and ingeniously constructed stairs. From this elevated stand, or pulpit, the marabouts read the Koran to the congregation in song, and deliver their addresses.

The Arabs conduct their services in every imaginable posture, standing, kneeling, sitting, or even while lying prostrate on the floor. The most noticeable feature is their gymnastic exercise during worship; they extend their arms into the air, sink down and kiss the ground, swing their body from side to side, again touch the ground with their forehead, and crossing the limbs repeat their prayers with rosary in hand. Even while walking in the streets the lips are thus busily engaged and the fingers are nimbly in motion with the rosary. The Arab women are not allowed to enter the interior of the temple; they have their separate apartments, and must worship in raised galleries, that are barred with close lattice work, where they are secluded and hid from all eyes.

The cupola of the mosque is truly magnificent. Supported by massive and elegantly sculptured pillars, it has the appearance of a mysterious ethereal canopy, especially when the sun-light penetrates through the stained glass of the Gothic windows. Around these pillars the statues of their heroes are placed, whose fame is carved in Arabic characters upon the marble pedestals. The calif chair, of which there are three in this temple, resembles very much the Papal See of the Roman Church. It is like a throne placed in a niche between the columns and covered with a sculptured canopy. There are also sepulchres of the famous dead here, carved in the wall, which are not inferior to those of Roman cathedrals.

The Arabian mosque is not only a house of worship, but also a court-house, where cases are judged and sentence is immediately inflicted; it answers the purpose of a public building where war and peace are vigorously debated, where the mandates and proclamations of the imperial magistrate are issued. Thus we can understand how the spiritual authority is also provided with civil power; the rulers are the descendants of saints, in whom all might and right is lodged. Though they be ignorant and their character corrupt, they are nevertheless the torch-bearers of all truth and the servants of Mahomet.

The sermons of the Mahometans are extremely eccentric and fanatical; they call upon lightning and thunder, they invoke the powers of hell, flood and fire to gain the utmost control over the people. It would indeed be a surprise if these speeches did not meet their desired effect. Abdel Kader is an example of such speakers, who in a short time gathered an immense army to rebel against France; but as an honest character, he stands forth as an exception to his class. When Marshal Bugeaud offered him alluring terms of peace, he answered abruptly: "I cannot place confidence in a man, who never prays but blasphemes God; there is a man in black gown among your soldiers, who prays frequently; him will I trust. Let him come, his word shall be binding." The man of prayer came, affirmed the proposals of Bugeaud, and peace was soon established. Abdel Kader kept his word, because it was sealed by one, who by his Christian life of prayer, had made an impression on him, and never afterwards did he take part in any revolt against Fr[illegible]

Lancaster, Pa.

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND THE CHURCHES IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will the changes most likely to follow the inauguration of President-elect Cleveland and the transfer of the Government into new hands materially affect the churches? This is an oft-repeated question, and one of no little import. A question arising in the minds of some who are immediately connected with the church of their choice in the city, and others although living elsewhere have a special and personal interest in the upbuilding of one or more mission congregations.

If the Jacksonian rule—viz: "To the victor belongs the spoils" be rigidly enforced by the new administration there will be sweeping changes in the departments. Thousands of employees will be obliged to seek their fortunes elsewhere and in other spheres of usefulness. Many of these are identified with some branch of the Christian Church, and are "stand bys," Aarons and Hurs to their respective pastors, co operating with them in the good work. The departure of all such will be deeply felt; a minister knows full well how to appreciate such colaborers; their accustomed places will be vacant perhaps many Sabbaths, and pastors and congregations will miss them.

There are also not a few employees who prior to their appointment under the Government were recognized as earnest, consistent Christians in the homes and churches of their fathers, but now, alas, are demoralized on the subject of religion and have turned their backs upon the church of the living God; these will not be missed, nor will the church be any the poorer on account of their departure from the city.

If the Jacksonian rule be not rigidly and literally enforced and "Civil Service" be not violated, the changes would not be so great. But each party in power proves after all to be a law unto itself. Although Civil Service rule may protect many clerks who may not have been vociferous against the opposite party, having maintained "still tongues and wise heads" in politics, nevertheless it is but reasonable to suppose that Washington will soon witness the outgoing of thousands who have long been favored with lucrative positions and the inflex of thousands to take their places. This seems to be the general impression. A great change of population is apparently inevitable under the circumstances and such change will in the nature of the case, prove a temporary interruption to the *full force activities* of the Church. Ministers will be very sorry to part with the earnest Christian brethren who brought their certificates with them and promptly identified themselves with God's people that heart to heart and hand to hand they might aid in the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom.

All honor to those, who, notwithstanding the temptations incident to public service at the Capital, stood firm in strict integrity—cherishing as a priceless gem, a simple childlike faith in God, turning deaf ears to the unphilosophical and illogical opinions of those "vain in their imaginations," to those who forsook not the altars of Jehovah, but paid their vows and performed their Christian duties, meeting face to face the responsibilities devolving upon them as immortal beings, zealous for the Master—it will be hard exceedingly to say farewell. In any event methinks, the Lord's cause will prosper, the work of evangelization will go forward. "He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." Wherever the Lord plants His vineyard no political changes can materially impede or retard its growth.

The vine of God's own planting will be tenderly nurtured though human hands should fail. He is not slack concerning His promise, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."

At no time in the history of the Church has its wonderful achievements—its glorious triumphs over the world and Satan consisted in great numbers. The earlier disciples of Christ, though a little band, were instrumental in winning multitudes [illegible] does not consist in what it appears to be *numerically* but in its *loyalty*. A hundred soldiers *patriotic, heroic* will win more victories than ten thousand who are lukewarm in [illegible] all of their country's weal. "A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation;" the changes likely to follow the incoming administration need cause no serious apprehension on the part of those directly or indirectly interested in Church work. Congregations may be diminished, sanctuaries depleted for a time, and membership reduced and a marked falling [illegible] contributions, but the Lord's work will prosper notwithstanding, and special grace will be given His servants for special emergencies.

With all honor to the outgoing population let no one be discouraged or imagine that God's kingdom must totter on foundations because one political party is about to give place to another.

I speak irrespective of party, and matter whether the President of the United States be the exponent of one political power or another, after all "the powers that be are ordained of God." "By Him kings reign and princes decree justice."

Mortal kingdoms are not lasting; they leave their climateric years and must terminate and pass away. And though humanity may come and go and one rule be superseded by another and governments change yet God's spiritual economy—the Church, built on the Rock of Ages, shall stand forever.

"Crowns and thrones may perish,
Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus
Constant will remain."

For The Messenger.

LETTER FROM KANSAS.

Mr. Editor:—We rejoice with the rest of the Reformed people in the advance steps recently taken by the Reformed Church, in regard to missionary work, and the general missionary spirit which apparently prevails in her institutions, especially that at Lancaster—Franklin and Marshall and the Seminary which is located there.

The seed there sown would no doubt bring abundant fruit, and will breathe a genial influence upon the present students, and those who may be educated there in the future. We are glad to hear the good reports which are made by Rev. D. B. Shuey in our state. We never supposed that there were so many Reformed people in the state as he reports, but it only requires some one to hunt them up.

There is no reason apparent to us why our beloved Zion should not have a foothold upon Kansas soil.

Our experience of fourteen years has taught us that this soil and climate will develop the growth of any thing that is planted and properly cultivated, and we do not know why the Reformed Church, if planted and nurtured would not develop and grow and become a mighty power to save souls for Christ. Every indication is here present to make this very part of Kansas one of the most prosperous and most productive parts of this continent, and we need a pure and undefiled Gospel here as much as they do in Eastern Pennsylvania. We have a larger proportion of Church loving and going people here than in the East, and Churches prosper in proportion with any business here.

We believe that Bro. Shuey's work will evidently bring about good results. He is a man who is eminently adapted to missionary work, and is well suited to the Western work. Rev. I. G. Brown at Wichita is also doing good work. He has erected a very fine Church at Cheney, a promising little town.

There are quite a number of Reformed families at that place, and a good foundation is being laid by Brother Brown for a good church.

He is or has just organized a congregation at Wichita; while the outlook there is good, yet it is not as flattering as at Cheney for the time being at least. Cheney is a town of 600 or 700 inhabitants and only about fifteen months old. The country around it is good and settled with a very [illegible] people. It would be a good place for any Reformed people who anticipate casting their lot with those who have gone before.

Land while it is [illegible] low and people who have a few thousand dollars can locate themselves very comfortably and right away Pennsylvania Germans. Almost one half of the settlement there is Pa. Germans. The crops about Cheney as elswhere in Kansas have been very good for the last three years.

Emigration is very strong into the southwestern part of the State. At the rate of [illegible]igration at present we will see the whole [illegible]w[illegible]rn part of Ka[illegible] settled in a few [illegible] low, and this makes [illegible] for [illegible] money, and [illegible] short [illegible]nds ca[illegible] a [illegible] been [illegible] raise stock a[illegible] grain for what [illegible] those who are more [illegible] stock to feed the grain, [illegible] fair remuneration for the[illegible] should come to Kansas exp[illegible] rich on raising corn and selling[illegible]

At this distance from market it [illegible] a farmer to condense his corn (not [illegible] whiskey) but pork. We have a market at Kansas City for all the pork we raise and get almost as much as in Chicago. Corn is selling at 20 cts., wheat 40 cts., potatoes 75 cts., butter, 25 cts., eggs, 30 cts.

A. G. L.

"I MUST BE USEFUL."

A Christian woman has adopted this as the motto of her life. A minister of the gospel adopted it as his, I must be useful in every sermon I preach, in every address I deliver, in every journey I take, in every meeting I attend," Let every Christian adopt this as a motto, "Though my condition may be low, though my talents may be but few, though my sphere of action be small, yet 'I must be useful.' I was redeemed to be useful. I will take Jesus as my pattern, who went about doing good. The day on which I have done no good shall be mourned over, and the sentence shall be written over in the calendar of my life, 'A day lost.'"

Family Reading.

LOVING OLD YEAR.

Loving Old Year! with emotions the tenderest,
Grateful I watch thee to whisper adieu.
None of thy gifts to me, even the slenderest,
Ever were merited; these are a few:
Gold from God's mount of unsearchable holiness;
Myrrh from the deserts where trials were strong;
Clusters of lilies from waters of lowliness;
Out of dark forests the sweetness of song.

Sheaves from the fields that were sown not in eagerness
Came to my hand when I fainted for food;
Honey from rocks that held promise of meagreness;
Newness of life where the death angel stood;
Exquisite bloom from those gardens so beautiful
Watered by streams born of silenceand snow,
Tended by fingers ethereal, dutiful,
Fanned by the winds of His will as they blow.

Long in God's hand for my soul have been centering
Treasures of tenderness kept from my sight;
All thou hast brought I still hold at the entering
Of the unknown as it creeps from the night;
All that is good I may trust to His cherishing,
Only my faithlessness making the loss,
Only the sin and the sinfulness perishing,
These blotted out by the blood from the cross.

—*Selected.*

A LONG, LONG JOURNEY.

When the doctor came down stairs from the sick room of Mrs. Marshall the whole family seemed to have arranged themselves in the hall to waylay him.

"How soon will mamma dit well?" asked little Clyde, the baby.

"Can mamma come down stairs next week?" asked Katy, the eldest daughter and the little housekeeper.

"Do you find my wife much better?" asked Mr. Marshall, eagerly. He was a tall, grave man, pale with anxiety and nights of watching.

The doctor did not smile; he did not even stop to answer their questions.

"I am in a great hurry," he said, as he took his hat; "I must go to a person who is dangerously ill. This evening I will call again. I have left instructions with the nurse."

But the nurse's instructions were all concerning the comfort of the patient; she was professionally discreet and silent. The children playing on the stairs were told to make no noise. The gloomy day wore on, and the patient slept and was not disturbed. But that night, before they went to bed, they were allowed to go in and kiss their mother good night. This privilege had been denied them lately, [illegible] responded with joy to the invitation. Mamma was better or she could not see them. The doctor had cured her. They would love him for it all their lives! She was very pale, but smiling, and her first words to them were:

"I am going on a journey!"

"A journey," cried the children. "Will you take us with you?"

"No; it is a long, long journey."

"Mamma is going to the South," said Katy; "the doctor has ordered her to. She will get well in the orange groves of Florida."

"I am going to a far distant country, more beautiful than even the lovely South," said the mother, faintly, "and I will not come back."

"You are going alone, mam[illegible]" Katy.

"No," said the mo[illegible] voice. "I am not [illegible] good-by, [illegible]morning before [illegible]gone. You will [illegible] are made ready, [illegible]e journey alone."

[illegible] was gone. When [illegible]heir father told them [illegible]ry at which she had [illegible] she slept.

[illegible]go? Who came for her?" [illegible] their tears.

[illegible]ot of Israel and the horsemen [illegible]eir father told them solemnly. [illegible]s wonder at the peace and happi[illegible]expressed in the faces of those mother[illegible]ss children; when asked about their mother they say: "She has gone on a journey," and every night and morning they read in her guide-book of that land where she now lives, whose inhabitants shall no more say, "I am sick, and where God shall wipe all tears from their eyes."

—*Detroit Free Press.*

IMMANUEL.

If you ask me how God could become man, I reply, I do not know, nor care to know because the blessed fact satisfies my mind and heart; and until I can tell how I raise my hand, or how a blade of grass grows, I shall not reject the glorious doctrine of the incarnation on account of its mystery. Man's ignorance should never be weighed against God's positive testimony, and we find that this testimony was given hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus in the form of a prophecy; "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son and shall call His name Immanuel." Turning to the New Testament, we read, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise; When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which being interpreted, is, God with us." Here the voice of the Eternal is heard speaking to the proud intellect, saying, "Be still, and know that I am God;" and here it is the highest province of reason to sit reverently at the manger of Bethlehem, and gaze with adoring gratitude upon the sublime mystery of incarnate love." For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh; that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." In this passage we are to understand that the law could not give us righteousness; not that it was imperfect in itself, but because it was rendered inadequate, ineffectual, by reason of our flesh or corrupt nature; and therefore God, in His amazing grace sending forth His own Son, inflicted upon Him the sentence of condemnation, not only against sin in the outward form, but against sin in the flesh, or the sin of our nature. And "now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets, even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all of them that believe." I cannot be too emphatic in reminding you that the law has not been set aside, but that it has been honored, vindicated, obeyed, satisfied in every jot and tittle of its claims upon the believer, because "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us."—*Rev. Jas. H. Brookes, D. D.*

RUINING A PASTOR'S INFLUENCE.

One person—male or female—in a congregation, can weaken a Pastor's influence, and finally disrupt the pastoral relation, by persevering and deprecatory criticism. No minister can stand long with a foe or two of this kind in his congregation; for no man is perfect, and when there is some one to direct the attention of his audience habitually to his defects, he certainly will fail, sooner or later. Unfortunately, in almost every parish, there is some one person who is credited with "bossing the Rector," Just keep up the cry, "Oh, yes; he is a good man enough, but he is not as good a preacher as I have heard." Speak it ever so tenderly and lovingly, *and that minister is doomed!* When he hears it—as he certainly will—let him pack up his grip-sack and flee to the mountains, or—somewhere else—for the storm is near at hand!

A plain, earnest preacher once entered the pulpit of a fashionable church, in which the hearers were supposed to exhort the minister to help them heavenward *delicately*. The preacher went right on as was duty telling the people, not exactly theorically, but strictly according to the Holy Bible, that they were sinners against God, and in danger of hell. In the audience were a man and his wife—he irreligious, she a professor of religion. No sooner had they reached the pavement, at the close of the service, than she began a heartless criticism of the preacher and his sermon—how he was rough and unrefined, and lacked all the requisites which make the orator,—the train of remark was kept up until it became noticeable that her husband made no reply. She turned and looked into his face. He was weeping—a convicted sinner.

Let parents beware what they say about [illegible] sermon or the preacher before their children, in whose heart the Word of God may be seeking a lodgment. Why pray in the morning for the conversion of sinners, and then, by cold criticism of the sermon, neutralize the very means by which it pleases God to save? Thoughtless comment at the dinner-table will do this far more effectually than all the profanity the children hear as they pass the drinking saloons on their way to school. Parents, beware! —*Ex.*

AN ATHENIAN STREET.

Wandering through the Hermes and Eolus Streets, where are the principal shops and business-places, one sees, almost exclusively, imported European things—dress-materials, tailors' goods, household wares of every description, canned goods, etc., etc. All seems to have been brought and put together into a heterogeneous mass in these small shops, and the merchants are very doubtful what they have or have not in their stock. They are very obliging, hunting about in their dark nooks and corners till at last they generally find what one wants. Order is indeed a virtue not yet much in vogue in Greece. The book-shops strike one as the only Greek emporiums until, following along Eolus Street almost to its end, toward the Temple of the Winds, we came to the Bazaar. Not far away the Acropolis is soaring above into the blue sky, and from its slopes crooked pathways run steeply down among the old and falling houses, all these narrow streets converging from every quarter of the town toward the market-place, which is always swarming with noisy and chattering venders. From Eolus Street we turn to the right into the first portion of the Bazaar, and perhaps it is the most interesting, as here the Greek costumes of the more ordinary description are made and sold. The shop-keepers sit in their little booths, with their goods neatly packed up about the walls. They are sewing and talking politics, and welcome the stranger with open arms as he turns the corner into Red Lane, as this is often called. The man at the head of the lane has the best post, and is apt to sell more than the others, although the hope of a better bargain may tempt many purchasers farther on. The prices are very similar at all the booths. Let us see what we can find at one of these shops. Every one is engaged in embroidering white woollen jackets with black or dark-blue or dark-red braid. These jackets belong to the man's costume. The pattern is drawn with a pencil on the stuff, which is so thick and hard that they stick the needle up and down, as in an embroidery frame. The braid is very pretty, sometimes very elaborate, and the edge of the jacket is usually finished with a row of balls, which gives a charming effect. If one asks where these designs come from, they answer, as the woman did at the Ergasterion, "They are Greek;" or perhaps it will be suggested, "They are Albanian;" but they do not know much about it, and think it very foolish that every one else is not satisfied with this explanation. The shop keepers are very pleasant however, and their black eyes shine and their white teeth glisten brilliantly as they talk. They are very polite to ladies, although I am told that twenty years ago a woman could not have gone into the Bazaar without hearing many unpleasant remarks made, and even now maid-servants seldom go to market unless they are very old and ugly, of which they will often be reminded before they come home.

THE GROTTO OF THE NATIVITY.

Whether the Grotto of the Nativity be the place of our Saviour's birth, this we know, that He was born here in Bethlehem, and as we recall the scene of the virgin mother and the Divine child, we must feel that neither Correggio's famous picture of the Nativity, with the light emanating from the child and shining in the faces of the wondering group, nor the lines of Milton beginning

No war nor battle's sound
Was heard the world around,

could exaggerate the beauty or greatness of an event which was beyond all that poet or painter ever conceived. As we picture to ourselves that mother with her child, we wonder what must have been her forecastings of his future, as she revolved the predictions concerning him and pondered them in her heart. No doubt her hopes were high, yet not even a mother's fondest desires ever imagined anything so great. As he lays in her arms, apparently so weak and helpless, she may have remembered the words, "A little child shall lead them." That child was to be indeed the leader of the human race. All history was in that [illegible]nger-cradle. The fate of unborn ages [illegible] generations was held in that little [illegible] *Dr. Field's letter from*

A TRUE WIFE.

It is not to sweep the house, make the bed, darn the socks and cook the meals, chiefly that a man wants a wife. If this is all he needs, hired help can do it cheaper than a wife. If this is all, when a young man calls to see a lady, send him into the pantry to taste the bread and cake she has made, send him to inspect the needle-work and bed-making, or put a broom in her hand and send him to witness its use. Such things are important, and the wise young man will quickly look after them. But what the true man wants with a wife is her companionship, sympathy and love. The way of life has many dreary places in it, and a man needs a wife to go with him. A man is sometimes overtaken by misfortunes; he meets with failures and defeat; trials and temptations beset him, and he needs one to stand by and sympathize. He has some hard battles to fight with poverty, enemies and sin, and he needs a woman, that, when he puts his arm around her, he feels he has something to fight for; she will help him to fight; that will put her lips to his ear and whisper words of counsel, and her hand to his heart and impart inspiration. All through life, through storm and through sunshine, conflict and victory, through adverse and through favoring winds, man needs a woman's love.—*Ex.*

CHURCH PAPERS.

"The valuable work religious papers are doing at the present day is but partially appreciated. These are taken up and read when the book would be left unopened, and the short paragraphs are scanned while the long articles are overlooked! The discerning pastor can easily detect the family without a religious journal. There are so many things occurring every week in the social and religious life of the churches and their work, religious truth is being presented and discussed in so many interesting and varied forms, so much of importance is occurring at home and abroad, in our own and in foreign lands, of interest to the cause of Christ, so many friends and acquaintances are engaged in philanthropic and mission work, scattered far and near, that a Christian man or a family without a religious journal will be found in pitiable ignorance of some of the most useful and important information of the times. The individual who desires to be respectably informed of the most important movements of the age (and of these the religious operations as affecting history stand first), who has not time to read volumes or long and labored articles in reviews and quarterlies, is little aware how much he is indebted for his intelligence, for the information he has gained, to the brevities and short articles in his weekly religious paper. Items that are read in a moment are often the conclusion or substance of a learned address or scholarly review that has been the result of hours and perhaps weeks of reading and meditation. The forcible presentation of a theme in a brief paragraph is read as a happy and flippant thought carelessly thrown off by an editor, whereas it is not unlikely the nucleus thought of a cargo of words of some book "boiled down" into a few succinct thoughts."

NAILS IN DECORATION.

Round headed brass nails may of themselves be extensively used in decorating chests, etc. It is well known in repousse or sheet-brass work that a very important point consists of introducing at regular intervals bosses, or round studs, of such a nature that they shall attract the eye by reflecting light. Thus, in the days when every room had its salvers and plates of hammered brass, favorite subjects were oranges, grapes, and other round fruits, whose hemispherical and rounded surface gave a brilliant reflection of light. Accordingly, a very favorite subject for a brass platter was the spies returning from Canaan, bearing between them an immense bunch of grapes. During three hundred years there were as many salvers made with this subject as all others combined. In fact, the employment of the boss, or knob, or circle, in art is as old as art itself; it was common among the earliest races, and an article which I have read declares that the white dots in a blue ground which form the undying "polka-dot pattern" in cravats is a survival of the heads of the rivets in ancient armor. It is as curious as instructive to observe how, for instance in Romanesque dress, very good effects were produced by simple circlets, surrounded at times by dots. These are seen, too, not only on old Anglo Saxon and Gaulish dresses, but on all objects where it was desirable to produce the most ornamental effect in the easiest manner. Nails can be had at the brass furnisher's in great variety and of every pattern, from one or two inches in diameter down to the tiniest tacks. —*From "Metallic Band work and Nails in Decoration," by Charles G. Leland, in* St. Nicholas *for November.*

A MEMORY.

There broods a stillness in the early gloaming,
A sense of quiet rest,
And busy thoughts that all the day were roaming
Now settle in my breast.

With peaceful throbbings beats the pulse of even,
And out from yonder star
There seems the radiance of the inner heaven
To stream through "gates ajar."

The time and feeling bring a sweet remembrance
[illegible]
That to the present only bear the semblance
Of crushed and faded flowers:

But yet the odor of the blossoms lingers,
Embalmed from all decay,
And still the heartstrings touched by loving fingers
Vibrate in song alway.

I see again with clear, unshadowed vision
A form beloved of old,
Whose spirit long in fadeless realms elysian
Hath walked the streets of gold.

This hour to her was dearer than the morning,
And lovelier than deep night,
With all the beauty of its grave adorning
Its clear yet mellow light.

And now I hold as girlhood's richest blessing
That hour beside her chair,
When bending o'er her, with my touch caressing
The soft brown of her hair.

And listening words of pure and tender meaning
As thought was linked to thought,
Till to my heart the truths of years of gleaning
In gathered sheaves were brought.

Oh! mother, mother, that the fruit is sparing
Is never fault of thine!
Both late and early with a hand untiring
Thou sowedst seed divine.

The years are many since the cold, dark river
Hath rolled our lives between,
While time and change are pressing me forever
On to the great unseen.

Now to *my* chair the little ones come thronging,
As to their earthly goal,
And in each childish face I trace the longing
Of an immortal soul.

Had but thy mantle on thy daughter fallen—
Sweet spirit passed away!—
Less weak and helpless for the duties calling
Would my heart stand to-day.

Ah! well, the bread was cast upon the waters,
And, after many days,
May it be found to thine eternal honor,
And to our Maker's praise.

The Friend.

DON'T MARRY A DRUNKARD.

A young lady in Iowa, against the earnest wishes of her parents and the advice of her friends, married a man addicted to the use of liquor. He had promised her he would reform, that after they were married he would not touch a drop of liquor, and she believed him. A year of married life was sufficient to dispel the illusion. The husband drank deeper and deeper, and sank lower and lower, till at last the wife felt that she could live with him no longer, and applied to the Supreme Court for a divorce. Her petition was denied, the Court informing her that, having voluntarily chosen a drunkard for a husband, she must discharge the duties of a drunkard's wife. "His failure to keep a pledge of reformation, made before marriage," said the Court, "does not justify you in deserting him. Having knowingly married a drunkard, you must make yourself content with the sacred relationship."—*Christian Advocate.*

Religious Intelligence.

At Home.

Church property is hereafter to be taxed in Washington Territory.

The Archbishops and Bishops composing the late Plenary Council in Baltimore have issued an extended pastoral epistle.

The Centennial Conference of American Methodism has proven to be quite a success, and a record of proceedings at Baltimore, together with papers read, will be published in a volume.

There is a convent in Baltimore the nuns in which are all colored. It was founded in 1829, and the present Mother Superior has been an inmate of it for forty-nine years. There are thirty-two nuns in it in all. Their work is chiefly educational.

A legacy of $5,000 was left to the St. James' Industrial School and Mission for Girls, by the late Anna B. Coxe. Mr. William M. David has bequeathed $2,000 to the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, and $2,000 to the Trustees of the Philadelphia Presbyterian Hospital.

The recently-appointed Bishop of the Methodist Church for Africa, William Taylor, has undertaken a great work and entered upon it vigorously. Forty missionary helpers are now ready to sail for this field next month and friends are coming forward to help sustain them.

In 1795, the Catholic Church in Kentucky consisted of one priest and 1,500 people. To-day, 1884, there are two bishops, 193 priests, 653 churches and stations, a Catholic population of 300,000, or one eighth of that of the whole State, 57 colleges and academies, and 100 free schools, which instruct 16,344 pupils, and nine asylums and four hospitals for the orphaned and infirm members of the flock.

Abroad.

A movement is set on foot to found a Roman Catholic university at Salzburg in Austria.

The Lutheran church of Finnland has a new archbishop at last in the person of Canon Randell of Abo.

The brother of the Grandduke of Mecklenberg, Duke Paul Friedrich has signed a document, by which he relinquishes for ever his rights of succession on account of his conversion to the Roman Catholic church. In case the Grandduke will die without leaving a son and heir, the son of Paul Friedrich may become his heir, but on condition of returning to the Lutheran church.

The German Roman Catholic Bonifacius Association, whose special work consists in maintaining the Catholic "Diaspora" in Protestant districts, is developing a marked activity. Its recent annual report shows that, during the past year, its income was about 750,000 marks, an increase of over 100,000 marks over the previous year. The society maintains 488 "mission institutes," scattered over all Germany, Austria, England, and Denmark. In the thirty-four years of its existence it has organized and maintained over 300 Catholic stations.

A great revival of activity is noted among the Catholic Slavs. The 5th of April next will be the thousandth anniversary of the death of the great apostle, St. Methodius, and extraordinary preparations are being made for the great National Slav Pilgrimage at Welehrad, in Moravia. One feature of the program will be a meeting of both the Greek and Latin Catholic Bishops in the ancient sea of St. Methodius, which has now dwindled to the proportions of a small village. Barracks will be erected to accommodate no less than 30,000 pilgrims.

The Basel Mission Society has just published its annual report. This society is prosecuting its work in the gold coast of Africa, in East India, and in China, near the seat of the French military operations. Especially are the African stations in a prosperous condition, and gradually becoming self sustaining. The whole number of converts in the three countries is 16,154, of whom 8,567 are reported from Africa, 2,607 from China, and 7,980 from India. The society has in its employ 97 male missionaries and 74 female missionaries. The income and the expenses were nearly one million francs.

Apparently the determined protest of the English conservative papers against the choice made by the trustees of the Hibbert lectureship during the past year to deliver this course "in defense of Christianity," as was the testator's design, has had but little effect on these authorities. The Frenchman, Renan, the Anglo-German, Max Muller, and the Dutch Kuenen, is to be followed by a German of the same spirit and character. The lecturer for the next year is Professor Pfleiderer, of the theological faculty in Berlin, one of the most pronounced and radical adherents of the Protestantverein. He is an erudite scholar and elegant writer, always interesting and instructive, even when he does not convince.

Bishop Williams, of Yeddo, in speaking of the condition of affairs in Japan, says:—"Christianity has been attracting more attention of late than at any previous time. The secular papers frequently discuss the subject; and some strongly advocate its claims. Notably among these is the principal Liberal paper, whose editor a few years ago wrote a book in which he said the Government should use all its influence in favor of Buddhism, and make it the state religion. Now, he says, he sees his error. The morality, civilization, and Governments of Europe and America, he says, are based on, and have grown up from the Christian religion, and, if Japan wishes to become entirely civilized, and be received on an equal footing into the comity of nations, she must become Christian. Some of the ministers make no secret of their desire that Christianity should spread in this country, and there is a general feeling that it will not be very long before Christianity is recognized, and entire freedom of conscience is granted. . . . Christianity, which for some years has been quietly ignored, will be perfectly tolerated, and will then have a free field. Though the prophecies which some have made that Japan will be a Christian nation in ten years will not be fulfilled—for Buddhism is not dead, and the priests will combine, and use all their strength to put off the, to them, evil day—still it will be Christian at no very distant future. They will oppose Christianity with all their power, which power is not to be despised; but the result cannot be doubtful. Christianity must spread and become the religion of Japan." There can be no doubt that in Japan, India, and other countries of Asia, the superstitions of heathenism are nearing their end. The question is whether heathen worship is to be succeeded by Christianity, or by skepticism and a blank agnosticism.

Youth's Department.

THE CHILD AND THE YEAR.

Celia Thaxter.

Said the Child to the youthful Year:
"What hast thou in store for me,
O giver of beautiful gifts, what cheer,
What joy dost thou bring with thee?"

"My seasons four shall bring
Their treasures: the winter's snows,
The autumn's store, and the flowers of spring,
And the summer's perfect rose.

"All these and more shall be thine,
Dear Child,—but the last and best
Thyself must earn by a strife divine,
If thou wouldst be truly blest.

"Wouldst know this last, best gift?
'Tis a conscience clear and bright,
A peace of mind which the soul can lift
To an infinite delight.

"Truth, patience, courage, and love
If thou unto me canst bring,
I will set thee all earth's ills above,
O Child, and crown thee a King!"

—*St. Nicholas for January.*

THE EVERGREEN WREATH: OR, MILLY'S NEW YEAR'S GIFT.

By Agnes Carr.

It was three weeks before Christmas, but the Widow Bertram's little cottage on the edge of a lonely forest, in the northern part of Maine, was fragrant with the spicy odor of pine, holly and hemlock, great branches of which were heaped upon the floor of the small kitchen, while Milly's little fingers were tired enough of breaking off the prickly twigs and making them into bunches for her mother and brother Jim, who deftly twined them into graceful garlands, wreaths and festoons; for soon there would be a call from the great cities for Christmas greens, with which to deck their homes and churches; and the Bertrams hoped by supplying this need to earn enough money to keep them comfortable through the long, cold winter, for they were very poor, and sometimes had hard work to drive the wolf from the door; and Jack Frost comes early and stays late in that far Northern State. So seven-year-old Milly had to help all she could, and her hands were very skillful, and her bright eyes very quick in picking out just the right spray, or bunch of berries, and she worked away steadily, only stopping occasionally to hug Miss Araminta Cleopatra Fitz-James—a curious little specimen of a doll, made of a corn cob, and dressed in a bit of faded calico, to which Milly had given so high-sounding a name as some compensation for other deficiencies, and which she loved with all her affectionate little heart.

"There, mother, isn't that a beauty?" said Jim, holding up a wreath he had just finished of rich heavy evergreens, dotted with the bright scarlet holly berries.

"The prettiest one of all," said Milly. "I wonder who will buy it?"

"It don't matter, so long as we get the money," said Mrs. Bertram, sighing. "I had hoped to give you children a little taste of Christmas this year, but it has been such a bad season, I am afraid there won't be anything for toys or candy, even if we can pay the rent."

"Oh, never mind us, mother," said Jim, cheerily. "Perhaps good luck will come with the New Year; and anyway, we've all we want, only I wish Milly could have a real nice doll instead of that scarecrow yonder."

"Don't call my dearest, sweetest Araminta Cleopatra names," cried Milly, catching up the corn-cob, and showering kisses upon its rather scrubby head.

"You ought just to see the dolls I saw in the toy store at T——," continued Jim, "with real hair, and cried when they were pinched as natural as Mrs. Rattle's baby. I tell you, they'd make you open your eyes! You'd never look at Araminta Cleopatra Fitz James again."

"Yes, I should," said Milly loyally, "though I would like to have a real dolly; but I've never even seen one."

Mrs. Bertram sighed again, and softly wiped away a tear; but Jim exclaimed, "I've thought of a splendid plan!"

"Oh! what?" asked Milly.

"You see this stunner of a wreath I've just made?"

"Yes."

"Well! I think I deserve something for the extra pains I've taken, so I'll write a note, telling whoever buys it about you, and asking them to send you a doll; and we'll tie it in among the greens, and who knows but some kind-hearted person may find it and do as we ask. Wouldn't it be jolly if they should?"

"Too lovely for anything!" exclaimed Milly, and she capered around the room, at the very idea, ending her impromptu dance by embracing Araminta Cleopatra, and declaring she should never love her any less even if she had a hundred china babies that cried just like Mrs. Rattle's Tommy.

So that evening, when the pine knots that served both for fuel and lights were blazing merrily in the open fire place, Jim hunted up an old inkstand and pen, that had not seen the light for many a day, earned a sheet of paper from a neighbor by bringing her a pail of water, and together he and Milly composed the letter, badly written and poorly spelled, but filled with a sort of pathos that must find its way to any heart at the holy Christmas-tide:

"Wil the one who gets this reeth please send a dol to my sister milly, she never saw one 'cept araminter kleopatrer fitzjames who is nothin' but a corn cob. we are arful poor and make up greens to sel. milly Bunches and mother and i tie. We has not had a krismas or New Yeer's present since a tree fell on father and killed him. pleese bee so kind as to send the doll it woode mak us so glad. milly is seven and I am ten.

Yours truley, JIM BERTRAM
THE CORNERS,' B—— County, Maine."

This epistle Jim read aloud with a great deal of pride; and then he and Milly tied it securely in among the graceful hemlock branches; while the mother laughed at their foolishness, even though she hoped and prayed that they might not be disappointed; and two days later the "postman wreath," as the children called it, was packed with hundreds of others and shipped to New York, where it was bought by an uptown dealer and sold to an old gentleman who carried it home to his daughter, and she, pronouncing it "exquisite," gave it the most conspicuous place on the parlor wall, without, however, discovering the little missive so snugly hidden away.

It was Christmas night, and Mr. Langdon's spacious house was brilliant with fire and gas-light, that shone resplendent and lit up the garlands and wreaths that bordered the costly paintings and decked the frescoed walls; while music sounded through the apartments, and in carol, dance and game children and grandchildren joined to celebrate the happy festal day. But in a low chair by the fire sat the youngest darling and pet of the household, Gracie Langdon, a fairy like little creature, with soft blue eyes and golden curls clasping tightly in her tiny arms an immense waxen doll—a present that very day from good old Santa Claus.

She sat very still, and slowly her blue eyes traveled around the room until they were finally raised to a picture of the Madonna and Child above the mantel over which hung the "postman" wreath made by the little children so far away in their lonely home.

"Oh, grandpa, come here!" called Gracie suddenly.

"What is it, Pussy?" asked Mr. Langdon approaching the tiny rocking chair.

"There is something white sticking out from that pretty wreath," said Gracie, pointing with her wee forefinger.

"So there is. Here, Fred, come and see what this dainty lady has discovered."

At the summons a stalwart young fellow left the group around the piano, and approached. It was but the work of an instant for him to take down the garland, dislodge the paper from its hiding-place, and hand it, with a low bow, to his little cousin.

"Why, it's a letter!" she exclaimed. "You read it, grandpa."

The whole company had now gathered round, and putting on his eye glasses, grandpa read aloud Jim's note; and as he finished, exclamations of wonder and pity sounded on all sides: "What a strange letterbox;" "Poor children! something ought to be done for them;" while little Gracie, with her big eyes filled with tears, ran to her grandfather sobbing, "Oh, grandpa, I am so sorry for Milly! Here, take my new dolly, and send it to her for a New Year's gift."

"To be sure I will," said Mr. Langdon, catching the generous little maiden in his arms and giving her what she called a "bear's hug," while for some reason his glasses did not seem as clear as usual.

It was the first day of January, clear, crisp and cold; but it was hardly a happy New Year for the Bertram household, for the greens had not brought as much as they expected, and after the rent for the small house and farm had been paid, there was little left for food and clothes, and the mother's heart was heavier than ever, and Jim had to whistle to keep up his spirits as he chopped away at the pile of wood in the yard.

Milly too was feeling rather disconsolate as she stood by the window making "peep-holes" with a hot penny in the thick frost which completely covered the panes, while Araminta Cleopatra looked more forlorn than ever, perched on the sill by her side.

With her eyes at one of the "peep-holes," Milly saw a wagon come lumbering slowly up the road and stop at the gate, and a man's voice was heard without inquiring if "Miss Milly Bertram lived there;" and immediately after the door was burst open and in rushed Jim, breathless with excitement, closely followed by a neighboring farmer bearing a large box.

"There, Miss Millie," he said, "I found that down at the 'Corners' for you, so I thought I'd bring it along. Guess somebody's been sending you a New Year's. But I can't stay to see, for my horses won't stand this snapping weather; so good mornin', and many happy returns of the day."

"The same to you" cried Milly. "and thank you so much for bringing this up. Oh, Jim, do hurry and open the box!"

But her brother was already at work with his hatchet, and the cover was quickly removed, and revealed the beautiful wax image, the loveliest thing Millie had ever beheld.

"Oh! is it alive?" she asked in an awe-struck tone, clasping her hands; and it was some time before she ventured to touch the dainty doll, dressed in satin and lace, who had such bright eyes, that opened and shut, curls of real glossy hair, and when a spring was touched cried "Pa pa, ma ma" in such a life-like manner. Indeed, she could hardly be persuaded that it was not a real living child.

Pinned to her skirts was a paper on which was written, "A New Year's gift for Milly Bertram, from her new friend, little Gracie Langdon. Her name is Blanche Lillian White."

"Oh, the dear, darling little girl!" cried Milly. "But look!" there are more things in the box."

And indeed, there were. And as package after package was drawn forth, and disclosed dresses and shawls for both Milly and her mother, clothes, and an elegant pair of club skates labeled for "James Bertram, who thought only of his little sister," and, lastly, a purse well filled with gold and silver, the joy and ecstacies of the children knew no bounds, while the mother wept from very gladness.

That was indeed a happy New Year's Day; and when in the evening they sat before the fire of pine knots, the mother wrapped in her new shawl, and with the old careworn look quite banished from her face, Jim polishing his new skates, on which he had enjoyed a fine race in the afternoon, and Milly with Blanche Lillian White and Araminta Cleopatra Fitz James side by side in her lap, Jim remarked, "It must be nice to make other people happy; and next Christmas Gracie Langdon shall have the very handsomest box of evergreens that goes into New York City, in return for Milly's New Year's gift."—*Exchange.*

THE CHIMNEY-SWALLOW'S NEST.

The present nesting-habits of the chimney-swallow are worthy of some consideration in connection with the subject of variation in the nidification of birds. It may be laid down as a fixed habit of this bird that, at present, it constructs its nest only in chimneys. The exceptional cases that have been mentioned recently are too few to render qualification of this statement necessary. Now, as chimneys have been available less than three centuries, where prior to this, were the nests of this bird placed? Peter Kalm says of these birds, writing one hundred and thirty years ago; "They derive their name from nests built in chimneys which are not made use of in summer: sometimes when the smoke is not very great, they do not mind the smoke, and remain in the chimney. I did not see them this year (1749) till late in May, but in the ensuing year (1750) they arrived on the 3d of May, for they appear much later than the other swallow." (This is not true of them at present. They invariably follow the bank-swallow, and precede by several days the rest of the swallow tribes. The chimney-swallow, furthermore, is not a true swallow but a swift, birds of a very different family, but with similar habits.) It is remarkable that each feather in their tail ends in a stiff, sharp point, like the end of an awl; they apply the tail to the side of the wall in the chimney, hold themselves with their feet, and the stiff tail serves to keep them up. They make a great thundering noise all the day long by flying up and down the chimneys; and as they build their nests in chimneys only, and it is well known that the Indians have not so much as a hearth made of masonry, much less chimney, but make their fires on the ground in their huts, it is an obvious question, Where did the swallows build their nests before the Europeans came and made houses with chimneys? It is probable that they formerly made them in great hollow trees."

This view of Kalm's is correct, as is well known. I had the good fortune in 1869 to find a "great hollow tree" in a piece of woodland that was thus tenanted by a colony of these birds. The nests did not vary at all from those found in chimneys. I judged the cause of this return to the old-time habit of nesting in trees was the fact that the chimney of a small house near by, in which the swallows were accustomed to build, had been closed to them by a wire netting, and as the nearest available chimneys were all tenanted by swallows, these "shut out" birds were forced to seek some available locality in a tree or crevice of a rock, or else quit the neighborhood. Accepting the only alternative, they availed themselves of a hollow chesnut tree, where they were, to all appearance, as well suited as they would have been in their former haunts. My curiosity was roused to know what the following summer would have to show. Would they return to the tree? In April and May of 1870, I carefully watched for them, but not a swallow appeared.—"*Rambles about Home.*

THE BABY.

Oh! this is the way the baby came:
Out of the night as comes the dawn;
Out of the embers as does the flame;
Out of the bud the blossom's on,
The apple-bough that blooms the same
As in glad summers dead and gone—
With a grace and beauty none could name—
Oh! this is the way the baby came!

And this is the way the baby 'woke:
As when in deepest drops of dew
The shine and shadows sink and soak,
The sweet eyes glimmering through and through,
And eddyings and dimples broke
About the lips, and no one knew
Or could divine the words they spoke—
And this is the way the baby woke!

And this is the way the baby slept:
A mist of tresses backward thrown
By quivering sighs, where kisses crept,
With yearnings she had never known;
The little hands were closely kept
About a lily newly blown—
And God was with her. And we wept—
And this is the way the baby slept!

—*J. W. Riley.*

WILLING TO SHOVEL.

Nine years ago a young man landed at Castle Garden, in this city, with a large capital in a thorough German education, and a small capital in $500 in his pocket. By the aid of the latter he expected to support himself until he could find congenial employment in which his thorough scholarly training could be of use. He had not gone far up Broadway before he was met by an engaging person, who represented himself as having unusual opportunities for investing money at large rates of interest. The young German utterly unskilled in the devices of sharpers, placed the $500 in the hands of the unknown benefactor, and made an appointment to meet him the next day. The next day came, in due course of events, but the investor failed to appear. When the young man understood that he had been defrauded, he passed through an agony of spirit which can be only known by those who undergo a similar experience; but not for a moment did he think of giving up; he fought his battle with an evil destiny and with his own inclination to despair, and then went quietly back to the Labor Agency at Castle Garden, and offered to do any kind of work.

It happened that a wealthy and benevolent New York merchant needed a ditch dug on his country place, and went that afternoon to Castle Garden to employ laborers. He secured four, and among them the young German in question, who had asked for the privilege of digging a ditch, and had not thought it worth while to mention the facts that he was a graduate of one of the most famous universities in the world. Two months the young man faithfully and uncomplainingly dug ditches in company with professional ditch-diggers. At the end of that time he happened one day in his employer's stable; a box was being marked for shipment to a foreign port, and the coachman, who was trying to mark it, did it in such a bungling way that the lady who was overseeing him told him to desist; the young German courteously offered his services, and performed the work so dexterously that he was asked how he came by the acquirement of writing. He stated briefly and without comment what his educational opportunities had been. That evening his employer had a little talk with him, and closed by saying, "You shall never touch another shovel on my place." The young German was sent into the neighboring village with fifty dollars in his pocket, directed to get a good boarding place and to hold himself in readiness to act as teacher. His first engagement was in his employer's family. He is now an eminently successful teacher, with a large salary and the respect and confidence of the whole community in which he lives. Another story in three words. Willing to shovel.—*Christian Union.*

FOR THE BOYS.

The *Wide Awake* gives the following story, which is all the better for being true. Two men stood at the same table of a large factory in Philadelphia, working at the same trade. Having an hour for their nooning every day, each undertook to use it in accomplishing a definite purpose; each persevered for about the same number of months, and each won success at last. One of these two mechanics used his daily leisure hour in working out the invention of a machine for sawing a block of wood into almost any desired shape. When his invention was complete, he sold the patent for a fortune, changed his workman's apron for a broad cloth suit, and moved out of a tenement-house to a brown-stone mansion. The other man—what did he do? Well, he spent an hour each day during most of a year in the very difficult undertaking of teaching a little dog to stand on his hind feet and dance a jig, while he played the tune. At last accounts he was working ten hours a day at the same trade and at his old wages, and finding fault with the fate that made his fellow-workman rich while leaving him poor. Leisure minutes may bring golden grain to mind as well as purse, if one harvests wheat instead of chaff.

THE CAPITAL OF KOREA.

Seoul looms up before you with high towers, in Chinese style, pierced for cannon. The entire city is surrounded by a wall twenty-five feet in height, and built of solid stone. You may think that you are about to enter some grand city with stately abodes, but on passing through the gate you find only thatched cottages, very wide streets, and scarcely any trees, and you are surprised that so grand a wall should be thought necessary to protect so insignificant a town. But there are throngs of people there, and bullocks and ponies laden with merchandise are passing you constantly. In the broad open spaces called market places are groups of donkeys laden with vegetables, and bulls almost covered out of sight with loads of brush-wood, to be used as fuel. Along the little brooks which run through the city are washermen with their clothes-lines. The Koreans build their houses by erecting four pillars or posts at the corners and filling in the walls with mud.

The better houses of the wealthy are faced with stone, pointed with cement. Though these are better in quality than those of the poor they are much the same style. You enter a house through a little sliding door or window about three feet high, consisting of a light wooden framework papered over to exclude the air and admit the light. There is on good houses a veranda, upon which the shoes of the inmates and visitors are left while they enter. In this tidy custom the Koreans resemble the Japanese; but the hollow space under the floor of the house, which is filled in winter with warm air, reminds you of the Chinese.—*Foreign Missionary.*

Pleasantries.

When little Willie L. first heard the braying of a mule in the South, he was greatly frightened; but after thinking a minute he smiled at his fear, saying, "Mamma, just hear that poor horse wiv the whooping cough!"

A political orator, speaking of a certain general whom he professed to admire, said that on the field of battle he was always found where the bullets were thickest. "Where was that?" asked one of the auditors. "In the ammunition wagon," said another.

A gentleman once met a little boy on his way to school with his lunch pail in hand and asked: "Well, my son, I suppose you learn to read at school?" "No, sir?" "What! Not learn to read? Then you learn to spell?" "No, sir!" "Not spell! Do you count?" "No, sir!" "Ah, my boy! What do you do?" "Wait for school to let out."

THE MESSENGER.

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REV. P. S. DAVIS, D.D., EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

REV. D. B. LADY,
REV. C. S. GERHARD,
REV. J. S. KIEFFER, D.D., } SYNODICAL EDITORS.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS. Communications on practical subjects, and items of intelligence relating to the Church, are solicited. Persons who forward communications should not write anything pertaining to the *business of the office* on the back of their communications, but on a separate slip—or, if on the same sheet, in such a way that it can be separated from the communication, without affecting it.

☞ We do not hold ourselves responsible for the return of unaccepted manuscripts.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1884.

Another Christmas has come and gone, but the fact which it celebrates is the most momentous in history, and its power and influence can never be abated. We may talk about other epoch-making events, but here is the one around which everything must revolve. Humanity through long centuries had been permitted to try its vain experiment of raising itself above the vitiating power of sin and all the evils that flowed out of the fall. And on the other hand all the manifestations of God simply *as God* had failed to give relief, so that there was a sense of the fact that more was required. Then came the supreme moment, when God and man became one Person. That once accomplished all other miracles might follow as lesser wonders. The God Incarnate could do all things, as easily as though He was still serenely enthroned on high, and He revealed Himself as Love, putting forth His power in continued acts which were all redemptive in their character.

At Bethlehem that fountain of life, and grace, and peace was first opened which has never ceased to flow. Its blessings are not confined to the straggling village now under the Mussulman's yoke, when the Infant Jesus once lay on the ground among the cattle in the cave. The undying life which He brought to the world is not a mere memory of the past; it is an actual reality upon which our salvation depends, and it has been and will be perpetuated, in God's people forevermore. Now every human body may be a tabernacle—a fit place for God to dwell, and the Church is His abode, the fullness of Him that filleth all and all. What could be grander or more inspiring than that!

As was anticipated, the Franco-Chinese war has not only suspended missionary work in China, but bids fair to prevent its renewal in the near future. The Protestant and Catholic churches, school-houses and residences at Wen Chau were burned at an early stage of the conflict and since then twenty chapels of the American Baptist Board in and about Canton have been raided and the native Christians subjected to persecution. At Ningpo the same sad state of affairs prevails. The soldiers sent to protect foreigners, have been the leaders of the mob.

The man who thinks that no one can cook as well as his mother did may deserve credit for a streak of filial affection which will excuse his partial judgment, but most people forget that the falling off may be in the person's own relish for food. The average growing school-boy is almost omnivorous, but the appetite with which he devours everything that comes in his way, from cold buckwheat cakes to raw turnips, does last forever. And that makes a large part of the difference. We judge from the way the modern youngster puts himself outside of all the raw and cooked material within his reach that he will retain as high an estimate of his own mother's way of doing things as any of the grown up sages of the past or present can have. But if that boy becomes a rich epicure he will covet not the coarse food in the poor boy's basket but his power to enjoy it.

The failing health of Rt. Rev. Richard C. Trench, Archbishop of Dublin, will cause regret outside of the Church of England in which he is a bright and shining light. His Catholic spirit in all the high offices he has held, has won the respect of those whose ideas of church polity have differed from his own, and his writings have proved a blessing every where. Nearly every minister who has read his comments on "The Parables" or "The Miracles" of our Lord for instance, has felt under obligations to him that carried with it a sense of personal attachment. We still hope that although compelled to resign his See, Archbishop Trench will still be able to enrich the church with the products of his pen. He is represented as having been very liberal with his official income, and now that he has retired he has refused to accept the continued pay which the law accords to him.

The greatest annoyance of the Christmas week was the overburdened condition of the mails, and the choked-up state of the express offices. With all the extra provision, made for the transfer of matter, papers, cards, letters and parcels were late reaching those to whom they were sent. This has been a great disappointment in many cases, but it could not be helped. In some instances we should learn by past experiences to take time by the forelock, but then again there are many things that cannot be done in advance. There is a propriety in timing things for the festival day. Happily the weather has been so cold that "mis-fit poultry" will not be an entire loss.

We have sent a postal to Dr. J. Spangler Kieffer authorizing him to take especial liberties with us the next time he gets within foot-reach, and we haye engaged to absolve him before the Church and the civil authorities if he should be charged with assault and battery. The editorial in our last issue on the "Gladness of Christmas" should have been credited to him. He put his initials to his note to us and not to the article, and we failed to notice that until it was too late. We think this statement is due to Dr. Kieffer and the public.

SACRIFICES.

Prayer and praise are recognized in the Bible as sacrificial acts. Through them the instinct of worship comes to an expression of itself in language. This instinct, however, is fully uttered only when it is embodied in some act of renunciation, whereby the individual gives up something. Having been created in the image of God, and receiving all our blessings from Him, just so soon as our hearts are touched with gratitude, we begin to feel that we must do more than praise with our lips. We at once desire to perform some act of self-denial; to make a sacrifice.

It is from this impulse that sacrifices have sprung, among all nations, in all ages of the world. They are the "voluntary utterances of man's nature, which was made for God," and can find rest only when it surrenders itself to Him. God's ancient people brought the best of their flocks, which constituted their chief possession, and laid them upon His altar, not only as an expression of the sad truth that without the shedding of blood there is no remission, but also as an act of devotion and self-surrender.

The shedding of Christ's blood, on the altar of the cross, has put an end to all such sacrifices, but the instinct of sacrifice remains. The nature of the offerings has been changed, but their necessity is more deeply felt than ever by devout and pious hearts. To confirm this declaration we need only point to the beautiful instances lately recorded in the MESSENGER of three noble women in the West, who laid their costly gifts upon God's altar for missions in Japan; surely they have offered a sacrifice well pleasing to God.

These instances stand out in bold relief, and at the same time also serve to remind us, how the Spirit of Christ, in a thousand different ways, is working in human hearts, and is wooing them to deeds of Christian charity towards men, and of unselfish love for God. In the degree in which we as ministers and people become imbued with this spirit will money flow into our treasuries, and will the work of the Lord prosper in our hands, G.

THE FIRST SHOT.

Important action was taken at the meetings of the three English Eastern Synods. They resolved to strengthen the Seminary at Lancaster by the addition of three new professorships. The MESSENGER brought us the news; and, no doubt, it caused many a heart to beat with enthusiasm and pride. A step forward is to be made. And that always enlists the sympathy of the enterprising friends of the Church and her institutions.

During the war a song used to be sung in the border States, beginning: "All quiet along the Potomac to night." For a time, after the meetings of the Synods, all was quiet along the Potomac, and the Susquehanna, and the Schuylkill, and the Allegheny and Jack's Run. But the quietness along the Potomac did not always mean that nothing was brewing. Just the contrary. While all seemed so calm and peaceful, the giant armies were drawing themselves up for those mighty battles which finally brought about a restored union, a profound peace and unexampled prosperity. There was recruiting and organizing and drilling and consulting and planning and resolving. And the wisdom and use of it all appeared when the swords began to clash and the musketry to rattle and the cannon shots to reverberate among the hills and victory or defeat to perch upon the banners of the contending hosts. The quietness in the movement to endow the Seminary, we have good reason to believe, is not the quietness of inactivity or death. The generals and their subordinates are consulting, letters and postal cards are being exchanged with great rapidity, plans are being formed and preparations are being made to "advance on the enemy's works," or to "make a flank movement," or to "fight it out on this line if it takes all summer." And time should be given, without grudging for these consultations and plannings. Upon their wisdom will depend, in large measure, the success of the campaign.

But how impatiently we waited, at the beginning of the war, for something to be done. However necessary the preliminaries were, we wanted to get them over. And those in the front were more eager than those in the rear. They waited anxiously for the first shot, and it thrilled them when it came. The writer of this was at Cashtown when the battle of Gettysburg opened. The road was full of Confederates, headed last. They were marching leisurely along in a humdrum way. When the first shot was heard, it seemed to go through the soldiers like electricity. And it didn't fill them with fear. There was not much scare about the veterans of either army at that time. Their countenances brightened. Their drooping shoulders braced up. Their steps were quickened and they seemed to be anxious to be with their comrades in the front where the cannon balls were flying thickly and carrying death to many a brave heart. The first shot of this campaign has been heard. It is no longer "all quiet along the Potomac." The church papers brought us the news that a large-hearted elder at Hanover had made a contribution of $5,000 toward the endowment of the Seminary. It was the opening of the battle. The sound was carried to a thousand houses and hearts in the church, and did not a thousand lips say: "God bless Elder Wirt?" It was not a "Ball's Bluff" or a "Bull Run," to strengthen by desperation; but it was a "Bunker Hill," to inspirit and cheer the rank and file of the Church with the prospect of ultimate success. It will put life into the leaders of the movement and let them see that things can be "done" as well as "said." It will strengthen many a half-formed resolution in the minds of those who are devising liberal things for the Church. It will awaken the echoes and stir up the zeal and call out the contributions of many a large-hearted man or woman in the Church, or we are no true prophet. L.

We have received a letter from Mr. Barwick Baker, of Gloucestershire, England, in reply to the criticism we made some time ago on the Post-penitentiary Treatment of Criminals, advocated by Gen. R. Brinkerhoff in a paper read before the National Conference of Charities at Louisville. Mr. Baker is a veteran in the work, and we will be glad to print what he has to say at an early date, with such comments as may be suggested by other lights thrown upon the subject. Anything that will help to solve the problem will be of immense practical importance.

The services which we were permitted to attend at Christ Church, Green Street, in this city, on Christmas morning, were especially fine. The music was the best we ever heard in a Reformed Church, and everything tended to the spiritual joy and comfort of the worshippers. The simple reading of the history of our Saviour's birth, and the inspired songs given in the Gospel of St. Luke, is about all that is needed to cover the ground.

The celebration of Christmas is becoming more general every year. Some congregations in all denominations now observe it, and there is evidently a growing appreciation of it as a Christian festival. This will be sure in the end to teach men the value of a historical theology.

We wish our correspondents to bear in mind that the MESSENGER must go to press on Monday morning of each week; and that nothing but short notices and items that are urgent in their character can be admitted after Saturday.

Communications.

ANNIVERSARY OF MISSIONARY SOCIETY AT MOUNT PLEASANT.

Sunday evening, December 14, was a festive and enjoyable occasion for the Reformed people of Mount Pleasant. They celebrated the second anniversary of the Reformed Missionary Society. The exercises, including devotional service, consisted of an essay, select reading, recitations, dialogue, and singing, all of a missionary character, after which Mrs. C. H. Pool, treasurer, read her report, from which we learn that $45 were paid in during the year, all of which was devoted to missions save about the balance on hand. The president, Miss Lottie S. Voight, then read her report, which, upon special request, she has kindly consented to submit to the readers of the MESSENGER.

President's Report.

These anniversary meetings of our Missionary Society are halting places; at which we stop and look back at what we through the grace of God have accomplished, forward to the work before us, and beyond at the crowns of glory, studded with bright jewels, which await the faithful workers in the Lord's vineyard, those who turn many to righteousness.

A president's report must, necessarily, be a rehearsal of the things we have done, and so may appear to some like telling us what we know already, but it cannot well be otherwise, and may we not profit by this rehearsal, and gather fresh courage for the future.

This society was started November 3, 1882, and called the "Missionary Society" of the Reformed Church and Sunday-school at Mount Pleasant, auxiliary to the Board of Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States. The object of this society is to awaken interest in the cause of missions, to diffuse missionary intelligence, and to secure regular monthly contributions for the support of missions in the Reformed Church. The interest in the cause of missions and the contributions to the same have steadily increased during the past year, as the minutes and treasurer's report show; and the monthly meetings have been regularly held and well attended.

The interest in the mission work in the foreign field seems to have been especially awakened. The letters from our missionaries in Japan have been read from time to time, which gave us a better idea of the work to be done than we ever had before. And as they wrote from their far off home, with their hearts burning with love to God, and the perishing heathen around them, our hearts were kindled into enthusiasm for the work.

One of our missionaries in Japan (Brother Gring) conceived the idea of printing the Bible in leaves in the form of tracts, that so the entrance of God's Word might give light in that dark and benighted land. Our society sent $10 to aid in this noble work, and rejoiced to think that just as the wind blows the leaves of a rose hither and thither, spreading fragrance all around, so by this means the words of life were sown broadcast, and our prayers ascended to God that it might take root and bring forth fruit abundantly unto eternal life.

We read with interest of the conversion of the first nine souls in Japan, as the first fruits of the work of our missionaries there. The essayist said at the meeting that day, "We feel like saying to the angels, 'Ring the bells of Heaven,' for nine more souls have been turned from darkness to light, and from the kingdom of Satan to that of God's dear Son." And as we read of the organization of these nine persons into a church, we felt that the Reformed Church in Japan was a certainty.

The next call was for aid to print the catechism into the Japanese language, and our society sent money for that object. As the work in Japan increased the missionaries felt the need of a larger place in which to teach and preach the Gospel. One of the members of the Reformed church pledged himself to be one of sixty to give $10 toward raising $600 to build a chapel in Japan. Our society then sent in a pledge for $10, and in a short time more than the full amount desired was pledged by the different missionary societies and Sabbath-schools of our church.

We watched with interest the pledges coming in, and our hearts burned within us to pay over the money, for we knew that then the full amount would have been pledged. This society felt that faithful believing prayer should accompany our alms, that this is the true way to strengthen the hands of the missionaries toiling in distant fields, and so prayer for the spread of the Gospel was a part of the exercises of each meeting.

While we have thus been working in the foreign field, we have endeavored to do all we could in the home field, lest while we were active in the one we might be leaving the other undone.

We feel that our own hearts have been blessed in this mission work. The currents of love that flowed forth to the uttermost parts of the earth have returned to enrich and enliven the hearts from which they went forth. And now as we stand upon the threshold of the third year of our existence as a missionary society the question is not whether the heathen can do without us, but rather whether we can do without them. The church that is not aglow with missionary zeal in a time like this, must surely lose the supply that comes from the fountain of divine charity and become a dry and barren desert. But as long as she is faithful to her mission, namely, the spread of the Gospel, she must and does enjoy the approbation and assistance of her Lord.

There is surely great encouragement for us to work in this cause. The time has come when all nations are opening their ports to receive the Gospel. It is believed that Japan will soon become a Christian nation, as a ruler is soon to ascend the throne who is in favor of Christianity. The kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. Surely the hour of final victory and rejoicing is rapidly approaching. Already over the mountain tops may be seen the streaks of light that usher in the coming of the latter day of glory.

Let us then press forward in this glorious work, and though we may not accomplish great things, yet let us so labor that we may at least deserve the plaudit of the Master, when He said, "She hath done what she could."

L. S. VOIGT.

At the close of the exercises $10 were voted for the Lima, Ohio, Mission.

F. B. H.

ST. PAUL'S CLASSIS.

At a special meeting of St. Paul's Classis held in the office of Elder C. M. Boush, Esq., Meadville, Pa., December 22d, 1884, the following items of business were considered with the following result:

Item 1. To receive Rev. S. H. Eisenberg and make provision for his installation as pastor of the Greenville charge.

Upon the presentation of a letter of dismissal from the Westmoreland Classis by the Rev. S. H. Eisenberg and a call to him from the Greenville charge, it was on motion resolved that he be received as a member of this Classis and his name placed on the roll, and that the call to him from the Greenville charge be confirmed and placed in his hands.

The following committee was named for his installation: Rev. Dr. J. H. Apple, Revs. Pilgram and Pontius.

Item 2. To attend to the wants of the Shenango charges.

On motion it was resolved that the consistories of the Old Shenango charge be requested to hold a joint meeting and to make an earnest effort to raise their pastor's salary and report their action to the president of Classis at once, and that the clerk furnish the pastor with a copy of this resolution, and that the pastor be requested to read it from the pulpit.

Resolved, That the wants of the New Shenango charge be met, until a regular pastor is secured, by the following committee of supply: Revs. Dr. J. H. Apple, S. H. Eisenberg and F. Pilgram.

J. W. PONTIUS, S. C.

Cochranton, Pa., Dec. 23, 1884.

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT TO THE LATE WM. D. GROSS.

Let those who knew him longer and better weave their happy recollections into articles more worthy of preservation. I will only lay this one chaplet upon his grave. It was my privilege to become personally acquainted with him as delegate to the General Synod, in Baltimore, last spring. Early on Monday morning I found him standing on the front door-step. His very look seemed to be an evidence of inner peace. I had learned to love his conversation, and I said to him: "Brother Gross, you are out early this morning." "Yes," said he, "I have been here several hours. I left Philadelphia at 1 o'clock. It was my desire to be here in time for the opening of the Synod." "So you have been home over Sunday?" I replied. "I missed you, but I did not know where you were." "Yes," said he; "I left on Saturday evening. *I have such an interesting Bible class, and I did not like to be away over Sunday on that account.*" Then he went on and told me many things that showed how deeply he was interested in the work of teaching.

An old man, in feeble health, travelling from Baltimore to Philadelphia and back, at his own expense, losing his usual night's rest—all in order to teach his class in the Sunday-school. What a lesson for the young! And why was it that he was so much interested in this work? Because he loved the Lord Jesus Christ and had formed habits of regularity.

I might easily say more with pleasure to myself and, probably, with interest to others; but it is my purpose to let this *one fact*, in a good man's life, stand out as prominently as possible for the benefit of every Sunday-school teacher.

N. Z. S.

South Bethlehem, Pa.

TREASURER OF GENERAL SYNOD.

We, the undersigned officers of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, hereby authorize Mr. Christian G. Gross, Jr., 3716 Haverford street, Philadelphia, Pa., to assume the duties of Treasurer of the said Synod during the unexpired term of his father, Mr. William D. Gross, lately deceased. The special attention of the several Treasurers of the District Synods is called to this arrangement, so as to know where to send the moneys received on the apportionments of General Synod for contingent expenses.

Furthermore, we authorize the said Christian G. Gross, Jr., as acting Treasurer, to pay the *sum of $288 00, being the amount apportioned to* the Reformed Church in the United States by the American Section of the Executive Commission of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches holding the Presbyterian System, toward the expenses of the said Alliance.

B. BAUSMAN, *President.*
J. B. KNIEST, *Vice President.*
I. H. REITER, *Stated Clerk.*
J. DAHLMAN, *Asst. Clerk.*

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 11, 1884.

Christmas Tidings.

Frederick, Md.—Why the ladies of the Reformed church of Frederick went so often to the mountain during the summer to gather material for winter decorations often puzzled me. But on entering their church on Christmas eve my mind was set at ease as to what they did with their summer storings. Over the recess of the pulpit and around the columns on either side were festoons of laurel and pine, while shading them off and about the pulpit and altar were arranged, in a manner that reflects great credit on the head that planned and the fingers that executed, ground pine, ivy, autumn leaves, ferns, golden rod, flags, goose-grass, pampas-grass, hydrangia, corn-tops, cat-tails, etc.

On each side of the chancel was a tree which, with their lights and the treat which their laden boughs promised, were attractive to the eyes of the little people who gathered in the church on Christmas eve.

The services consisted of prayer, reading of Scriptures, recitations in catechism, singing of Christmas carols, giving of gifts to the infant school, collection for Orphans' Home, and addresses by the writer and the pastor. The services throughout were beautiful and were enjoyed by all present. The little folks especially entered into the spirit of the occasion as if it were theirs. If taking an active part gives them the right this festival was theirs in truth.

On Christmas morning a cool biting air did not hinder the gathering of a congregation large enough to nearly fill this large church. Although at six o'clock in the morning, yet the people old and young with smiling faces and merry Christmas greetings came together to begin this festive day in the worship of the Triune God.

The services opened with a procession and singing by the girls of the Sunday-school, after which the regular church services were conducted, with the exception of an extra hymn, and responsive reading by the choir. On this morning, as on the evening before, the choir and organ were aided by some half-dozen instruments from the Frederick Cornet Band, to swell the joyful songs of praise.

As I saw the decorations in honor of the occasion, the happy faces beaming forth the joy of the heart, and heard the sweet songs of praise and the inspiring word proclaimed, the thought came to me that Christ not only lived on earth once, but that He still lives in His Church. He is still the bright guiding star that leads us each to enter anew into rejoicing over the fact of His birth. R.

West Philadelphia.—*Church of the Strangers*, Rev. George H. Johnston, pastor, had its first early six o'clock service on Christmas morning, which was well attended. The weather was perfect for the season, the earth covered with snow and a crisp winter air made the worshipper draw his coat about him as he briskly hasted away to the house of prayer. How helpful a choir is in worship, and especially a good leader. Christmas hymns, anthems, and chants were beautifully sung, the narrative of the Forerunner's birth and mission, and the account of

Jesus' advent, were read, prayers offered, and alms gathered, and then "everybody shook hands with everybody else," and extended good wishes the one to the other. How good a thing it is to give the blessed Christ our first thoughts and worship on the anniversary of His birth!

In the evening the Sunday-school had its service. The tree was beautiful, and beneath its spreading branches the gifts for the children were stowed. From the processional hymn on out to the end it was pleasant to hear and to join in the praises of the infant Saviour. Before the children received their gifts they gave alms to the Mission cause.

Lancaster.—The Christmas festival was ushered in by the early morning service (6 o'clock) in the First Reformed Church. This service, commenced many years ago by the sainted Harbaugh, has grown in interest and solemnity from year to year, so that it now has a very strong hold not only upon this congregation, but also upon the community. The attendance this year, notwithstanding the cold weather, was very large—devout worshippers from the different congregations, indeed, from the different evangelical denominations of the city, filling the temple of the Lord.

The services at the altar were conducted by Drs. Dubbs and Stahr. The music was carefully selected and well rendered by a full choir and orchestra. The decorations were on the same general plan as in former years, with some modifications in details. The effect was decidedly beautiful, the appearance of the pulpit, chancel, etc., set off with palms, ferns, and other foliage plants, was especially chaste and attractive. There are few persons who can attend such a service without being both moved and impressed. The solemnity of the hour, the sacredness of the place, the effect of the decorations, conspire to prepare the heart for worship; and when the choir begins with the simple *Adeste Fidelis*, at first as a solo, and then with changes and alternation of parts, leads you on until the full chorus bursts upon the ear, you are carried along with the music; you seem to see "Bethlehem's Manger," and you listen with ever new interest to the story of the Nativity. The "Gloria" from Mozart's Twelfth Mass and the Te Deum were well rendered, and the music throughout was very good.

On Sunday evening, December 28, the Sunday-school of the First Church held its Christmas festival, which proved of more than ordinary interest, consisting, besides the regular opening service, of music and two addresses.

In St. Paul's Reformed Church services were held at 10:30 A. M., when Dr. J. B. Shumaker, the pastor, preached to a large congregation. The Sunday-school festival was held in the evening of the same day. An address was made by the pastor, and the annual report was read by Elder J. A. Pearsol.

At St. Luke's the Sunday-school festival was held on Sunday evening, December 28th.

Lebanon.—St. John's Sunday-school and congregation of this place enjoyed a blessed Christmas festival. An exercise was held on Christmas eve, which commenced with the school chanting one of Miss Alice Nevin's carols in procession from the school room to the upper audience chamber, which was neatly decorated with laurel wreaths, and festooning, and a large tree in the chancel. The further singing of hymns and carols was interspersed with the usual distribution of gifts to the children, a kind and feeling address by the retiring pastor, Dr. T. S. Johnston, and some remarks by the incoming pastor.

On Christmas morning another pleasant service was held, at the close of which the usual offering was taken for Bethany Orphans' Home. It is to be regretted that this offering, $19.31, was *not as large as it always has been, but this is only* natural, in view of recent circumstances, and we trust that, in this respect, the school will hereafter not only reach but go beyond, its old standard.

Church News.

☞ Stated Clerks of Classes and Pastors will oblige us by sending such Items of News as will be of interest to the Church.

OUR OWN CHURCH.

Pennsylvania.

Waynesboro'.—Lectures on Europe.—Rev. Dr. Bomberger, President of Ursinus College, delivered three of his admirable lectures on things secular and religious as seen on his late European trip, in the Waynesboro charge, on Saturday and Sunday, December 20th and 21st. The greatest interest was manifested in the Doctor's remarks by the large number of persons who, despite the inclemency of the weather, were present at the two lectures in town, and those unable to hear him were greatly disappointed. He spoke in Trinity church of Waynesboro on Saturday evening on "Week Day Views in the Land of our Forefathers;" in the Salem church, four miles west of town, on Sunday morning, about "Different Types of Religion in Europe," and in Waynesboro again in the evening on "Some Sundays in Great Britain and on the Continent." Those who have heard the Doctor's graphic and faithful descriptions of European life, morals and religion, know how rich an intellectual and spiritual treat is in store for pastors, consistories and people who will arrange with him for a similar visit to their charges during this winter.

Columbia.—A Surprise.—On Sunday morning, December 14, Rev. J. H. Pannebecker, pastor of Trinity Reformed church, announced that the service was the first anniversary of his pastorate, and preached a sermon on the duties and responsibilities of the Christian minister.

But it appears the members of the church were not satisfied with the celebration of so important an event, and taking the matter into their own hands, they visited the parsonage on Tuesday evening *en masse*, completely surprising the pastor and family with their visit, and the abundance of useful articles they brought.

After spending a couple of hours in pleasant conversation, and expressing the hope that many more anniversaries might be added to that one, they left for their homes.—*Spy.*

Freeburg.—The Twelfth Annual Musical Convention of the Pennsylvania Central Musical Association will be held in the Musical College, Freeburg, Pa., on January 26th, continuing until the evening of the 30th. It will be under the leadership of Prof. Wm. Moyer, an experienced teacher of vocal classes. Prof. H. A. Kline, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., will be present. The address of welcome will be delivered by Rev. T. J. Hacker, of Shamokin, Pa., on the evening of the 27th. Other noted musicians will be prepared to make the occasion an interesting and profitable one. Full particulars can be had by addressing F. C. Moyer, Musical Director, Freeburg, Pa.

Red Bank Charge.—Rev. J. G. Shoemaker, of West Alexandria, O., has accepted a call to the Red Bank charge, Clarion county, Pa. This charge has three times overtured Rev. S. to become their pastor. He had for eighteen years served one of the congregations of this charge—as pastor of Curllsville charge, of which this was once a part. He is therefore returning, as it were, to his old field of labor. After five years of labor in the West, Rev. S., on account of ill health to himself and family, is led to make this change. It is to be hoped they may there be free from the ill effects of climate which has been their experience since they left that region. The West loses a good laborer, but the East welcomes him again within its bounds.

Carlisle. — Church Wedding. — Church weddings in Carlisle are always brilliant scenes, and invitations thereto are a coveted article. The one recently celebrated in the Reformed church was an unusually brilliant affair throughout, and the auditorium and gallery were filled with relatives and friends of the bride and groom. While waiting for the appointed time, those present had an elegant opportunity to admire the beautiful decorations, the handiwork of Mr. Henry Keller, whose fame for this kind of work extends beyond Carlisle. Promptly on time the bridal party reached the church, and the wedding march, executed by Miss Annie Weirich at the organ, assisted by two violinists, Messrs. George and John Kurzenknabe, of Harrisburg, was struck up. The bridal procession entered as follows: Misses Reba and Fannie Kremer, two little maids, nieces of the bride; the ushers, Messrs. George D. Keller and Will Maglaughlin, cousins of the bride; the bridesmaid, Miss Mary Kremer, a niece of the bride, dressed in pink; the bride, Miss Annie Louise Kremer, magnificently dressed in white, en train and with a veil, leaning on the arm of her father, Rev. Dr. A. H. Kremer, the beloved pastor of the church; the two little maids opened the floral gates, allowing the bridal party to pass through; simultaneously with the entrance of the bridal party, the bridegroom entered the church from the chapel, accompanied by Rev. Ellis N. Kremer, of Bedford, and met the bride at the chancel, receiving her from her father, who passed around and took his station in front of them, where, assisted by his son, the reverend gentleman solemnized the rites which made his daughter the wife of Mr. John H. Shock, cashier of the Greencastle National Bank.

The bridal party and ministers stood under a pagoda of flowers, 16 feet high, in the centre of which was a ball of roses. The pulpit was decorated with vines and a profusion of pink roses. The altar was a bank of roses, surmounted with begonias and ferns, while the platform was strewn with roses.

After the ceremony a reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents, lasting several hours. The bride received a great profusion of presents, many coming from a distance. The happy couple departed on the midnight train for an extended tour, carrying with them the well-wishes of many friends.—*Sentinel.*

Clerical Register.

After January 1st, the postoffice address of Rev. J. G. Shoemaker will be Shannondale, Pa., instead of West Alexandria, O.

SEMINARY NOTICE.

The Winter Term of the Theological Seminary, Lancaster, will open on Thursday morning, January 8th, 1885, at 10 o'clock, in the College Chapel.

E. V. GERHART,
President of Faculty.

General News.

Home.

The car-drivers of New Orleans are on a strike.

Complete arrangements have been made for the transportation to the New Orleans Exposition of the Old Liberty Bell. It will leave in abont three weeks.

General W. T. Sherman and Messrs. G. W. Childs and A. J. Drexel have held a conference to consider means of reliving General U. S. Grant of his indebtness to Mr. Vanderbilt.

The report of the National Association for erecting the Garfield monument shows that the sum of $132,399.64 has been raised. Of this amount $88,491.38 has been raised in Ohio, most of it in Cleveland. Every State and Territory of the Union is represented in the subscription list, Delaware giving as much as Vermont and Texas as much as Massachusetts or Michigan. Of the subscription twelve hundred dollars was sent from foreign countries, Australia making a contribution of twelve dollars.

RACINE, Wis., Dec. 28.—The beautiful Blake Opera House and Hotel which was recognized as one of the finest in the United States, is in ruins, having been burned to the ground at 1 o'clock this morning. Not only was the beautiful and costly structure destroyed, but three precious lives were sacrificed.

The hotel contained about sixty persons, all of whom escaped in their night clothes except Mr. and Mrs. Russel Glover, members of the Thompson "Beggar Student" Opera Company, and a Mrs. Patrick, a chambermaid of the Blake Hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Glover were residents of New York City.

Foreign.

Marquis Tseng charges England with a breach of neutrality in selling France vessels for the transportation of troops.

Official reports from the scene of the late earthquake in Spain show that 266 persons were killed.

A native lately arrived at Dongola with intelligence that the rebels are suffering and dying from famine.

A conflict is reported to be impending in the Congo territory between the French forces and the agents of the African Colonization Association.

The Berlin press publishes an official communication relative to Bismarck's rumored visit to Paris, in which it is stated that the relations between the two nations are of a satisfactory nature.

It is said that already European royalty is being looked over in search of a wife for the young Prince Albert Victor, eldest son of the Prince of Wales, who attains his majority on January 8. The Prince is a moderately good catch for some one.

Paris, Dec. 28.—Three thousand Socialists held a meeting at the Salle Levis to-day. A number of Anarchists who were present wished to nominate a chairman, and met with some opposition. A hand to hand fight ensued, in which seats were used as weapons. Several persons were injured. Subsequently a resolution was adopted to call an open air meeting of unemployed workmen on January 15.

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We have been enabled to secure a lot of them at a very low rate, and thus are able to make the following liberal offer:—**We will send "THE MESSENGER" one year, and these Two Pictures, for $2.20 in advance, postpaid, to *new* Subscribers.**

This is a rare chance to get these two Pictures and the Church paper at a low cost, and as the offer is limited, those who want them must act soon.

We cannot, because of the cost of these, give any commission to those securing new subscribers, nor can we allow them to any old subscribers on renewing their subscriptions. We trust the friends of the paper will, however, aid us in the effort to increase our subscription list. Address,

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SUNDAY-SCHOOL PERIODICALS.

We would call the attention of Pastors and Superintendents of our Sunday-schools to the fact that the time is approaching when they shall make up their lists of Sunday-Schools Periodicals for the new year. It is important that those in charge of these nurseries of the Church should see that they have such means of instruction as are the best and most adapted to the spiritual wants of the scholars in their care. And surely none are better than those issued by our own Church Publication House. To go outside of it for such supplies is doing wrong to those taught and to that which is an Institution of the Church, intended and maintained for the purpose of providing the Church with sound and healthful, as well as the Church's own literature and teaching.

There are Sunday-schools within the Church that have had in use the publications of irresponsible outside paaties, who issue them for the profit only they may derive from their sale, because of their cheapness in comparison with our own. But it is doubtful if anything has been gained by such a motive for their being used—they verily being the dearer in the end. Some of these, we are glad to say, have discovered this and are desirous now of receiving such as are issued by the Publication Board of their own Church.

It is to be hoped Pastors and Superintendents may consider this matter well and see it to be to their advantage and the welfare of their scholars to use such publications as are issued by the Church, whose doctrines they should desire to instil into the hearts and minds of the young of the Church committed to their solemn care.

Our Sunday-school publications compare favorably with those issued by any of the Publication Houses of other dedominations. In fact, they are second to none, and are heartily endorsed by those using them. A fair trial of them will prove this. For prices see other column.

We will send sample copies on application. Let us have orders for them at an early date. Information as to terms, etc., cheerfully given.

SUPERINTENDENT.

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BY
HENRY SCHWING.

This book, just issued, contains a selection of Tunes for use in Worship, selected and arranged with great care, and from foreign and domestic sources. Choirs and Congregations will find it a great help to them in securing tunes of a devotional character for hymns used in the worship of the Sanctuary. Professor Henry Schwing has had long experience as an organist in one of the principal M. E. Churches in Baltimore, and has devoted great study and attention to harmonization.

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it can also be used by any one desiring a superior collection of tunes.

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BOUND COPIES FOR 1884.

We have had bound a few copies of SUNSHINE for 1884, printed on tinted and heavy paper, and bound in muslin—which would be very suitable for Christmas Presents to the little folks. Price, 75 cents, postpaid.

Reformed Church Pub. Bd.,
907 Arch Street,
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

ALMANAC FOR 1885.

According to announcement heretofore made we are now ready to fill orders for our Almanac for 1885. We thought that for 1884 was a superior one, but we believe that the one for 1885 even excels it. It is full of interesting reading matter and valuable statistics. It is printed on better paper than formerly, and is illustrated with pictures of several of our recently erected churches and of some of our Institutions—which should make it valuable in the way of information. It needs to be seen to be appreciated. As Missions was the chief feature in that of 1884, so Church Architecture is made that of 1885. Every member of the whole Reformed Church should have a copy of it. Will not pastors and laymen see that it finds its way into the hands of every one?

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Miscellaneous.

HOW THE YEAR WENT.

By Susan Coolidge.

Cold lay the midnight, cold and black
On sleeping earth and sea;
The moon paused on her pallid track
And the stars crept out to see,

As, bowed with age and bent and blear,
The Old Year took his way
Across Earth's little atmosphere
Toward the slow-moving day.

A sound of revel smote and rang
In joyous, merry din.
"The New Year comes," glad voices sang;
"Arise and let him in."

Sadly the Old Year paused; a sigh
Broke from his brave old heart.
"The world cares not that I must die,
And smiles to see me part.

"When I was young, it welcomed me
With gifts and song and praise.
Have I not served it faithfully
These many months and days?

"Why should men joy to see me go—
I, their old, loving friend,
Departing, grieved and sad and slow,
With none to watch my end?"

But as the Old Year spoke a sound
Of voices low and sweet
Struck on his ear, and, peering round,
He stayed his lagging feet.

Two lovers leaned them side by side,
On either cheek a tear,
And with a strong, sad voice, one cried:
"Good bye, good-bye, Old Year!"

"Good-bye, O kindly friend and true,
Who wove our lives in one.
Other good years may come; but you
Are still our dearest one."

Then smiled the Old Year, as he went,
His misty eyes shone bright,
And, fearless now and quite content,
He fared into the night.

And when he met the New-born Year,
All rosy, blithe, and gay,
He cheered him with a father's cheer
And sped him on his way.

"Heaven go with thee, fair son, and keep;
And this thy guerdon be,
That at thy end some eyes may weep
As they have wept for me."

—*Independent.*

Selections.

View the fortitude of your Divine Leader, and endeavor to march on in His steps.—*Doddridge.*

Faith is letting down our nets into the untransparent deeps, not knowing what we shall take.—*F. W. Faber.*

David Livingstone said, "I am a missionary, heart and soul; God had only one Son, and He was a Missionary!"

"It is a trifle," you say, "it is nothing." True, but it is a nothing that will be everything to you; for a trifle that you prefer to the will of God is a trifle that will be your ruin.—*Fenelon.*

In counteracting our defects, we should be cautious not to blunder by imitation of others. We should search till we find where our character fails, and then amend it—not attempt to become another man.—*Cecil.*

The gospel is not simply a philosophy of religion or law of life, but it is an apocalypse, showing the heavens to our thought, and so bringing its spiritual benedictions to every heart and life. —*Rev. Dr. R. S. Storrs.*

Personal.

Chief Justice Waite has been seriously ill from overwork.

London, says Mr. Chas. G. Leland, has no ladies' decorative art clubs like those of so many American cities, and no industrial art school like that of Philadelphia.

Next month Mr. W. W. Corcoran, of Washington, will present a fine gold medal bearing a portrait of himself to the student who has during the year made most improvement in drawing from the casts in the Corcoran Art Gallery.

Jenny Lind is not a mere "honorary" member of the Faculty of the College of Music at Albert Hall, London. "She is as punctual as the clock in coming," says the director, Sir George Gove, "and often stays an hour and a half longer than her proper time. And she is the most devoted teacher you can imagine, tremendously strict, but appreciative, and the idol of her scholars."

Science and Art.

A patent attachment inside a watch now does away with the need of either keys or stem winders. It winds the watch automatically.

Insulation has been so perfected by late discoveries that there is now less loss of electricity between New York and Europe than there was formerly between New York and Jersey City.

Nature gives an instance of the production of a rainbow by an electric light, the carbon being one and one-eighth inches in diameter. It was like a faint lunar bow, and there was no prismatic color.

Natural gas used in brick kilns near Pittsburg is reported to have given a more even temperature, and to have secured a more uniform hardness even in the arches, where the bricks are generally vitrified by coal or wood.

Artificial sponge made of cotton, rendered absorbent, and treated with antiseptics, has been invented in England, at Birmingham. A piece of the size of a walnut has absorbed water until it reached the size of a cocoanut. It is so cheap that it need not be used but once, so that sponge infection can be readily avoided.

It has been recently shown that flying fish do not fly at all, their wings and tail being employed merely to sustain their owner while he is in the air. The wings produce a curved compression in the water from twelve to fifteen inches apart, while the tail produces almost no effect save that of a propelling force. After the fish leaves the water, both wings and tail are rigid, and so remain until the fish falls back by its own weight.

The inclined plane on the Pennsylvania Railroad, at Pittsburg, is a gigantic engineering structure of its kind, built according to the most advanced scientific designs, and without regard to cost. Teams, freight, and passenger cars are hauled up by means of steel cables, the plane having a total length of 840 feet, with a rise of nearly forty three feet to the hundred. It is built on arches, the longest span being 232 feet, another is 120 feet, and the rest are sixty feet each. The cables for hauling the cars are entirely of steel, and the largest ever made in this country. The engines furnishing the motive power are of 700 indicated horse power.

Items of Interest.

A father and son are under sentence of death in a Louisiana prison, and for separate and distinct murders.

Eleven hundred and nine women were registered in Boston this year to vote for School Committee, against 701 last year.

The statue of Garfield at the foot of Capitol Hill, Washington, will directly face the Hall of the House of Representatives.

A Scotch colony consisting of about 2,000 persons is now being organized to go to Los Angeles county, Cal. Many well-to-do Englishmen are also constantly going to that county, and the price of land is going up.

The plea of a Nashville negro, convicted of butting an enemy almost fatally, was that in infancy he had been fed on milk from a notoriously belligerent goat. The Judge said he could not regard that fact as an extenuation.

A dog got in among the machinery of the clock in the city hall at Trenton the other night, and prevented it from being as strking an attraction as usual. The silence of the bell led to an examination, and the dog was extricated.

A sensitive Ohio girl is ill from nervous prostration. She worked in a millinery shop, where great numbers of little birds were used in trimming bonnets, and she grieved constantly over the victims of fashion until her health gave way to the strain.

All the rooms in the hotel at Monterey, Cal., are engaged by Eastern visitors for the entire winter, and it is also said that the number of Eastern men of means who are looking for vine and fruit land in southern California is double the average.

A writer in a French medical journal proposes that cities be supplied with fresh county air. A large field in the country is to be surrounded with a high wall and planted with balsamic trees to absorb the dust, and the air from this field is to be conveyed through pipes into every city house.

By order of the city authorities, every saloon in Abilene, Kansas, was closed last Sunday. This unprecedented action struck the community dumb with amazement, and the saloon-keepers promptly gave expression to the general feeling of woe by hanging heavy folds of crape on their closed doors.

The danger of wearing next to the skin articles of clothing dyed with substance obtained from benzole and other products of coal tar, has been declared many times in letters from medical men, both in this country and abroad, who have given instances of the ill effects caused through the absorption by the skin of these irritating and poisonous compounds. Their warnings are repeated and illustrated in a case of exhibits sent to the Health Exhibition in London by an authority on skin diseases. In this case are specimens of some of the beautiful aniline colors, rosaniline, magneta, violet red, Bismarck violet, etc., and gloves and stockings dyed with the substances by which these hues are obtained that, in cases coming under the treatment of the exhibitor, had produced eruptions on the skin of women and children, in some instances of a very severe character.

Useful Hints and Recipes.

Small Birds Roasted.—Wrap up the birds in slices of bacon and fix them on to a skewer with a thin slice of bread and an equally thin slice of fried ham between each bird; roast before a quick fire, baste with melted butter, and when they have been on the spit a few minutes sprinkle them lightly with salt and bread crumbs, moisten with melted butter, and dish up on the skewer.

Coffee cake.—To make one good-sized loaf, take one beaten egg, one half-cup of molasses, two-thirds of a cup of brown sugar, one very small cup of butter, same sized cup of very strong cold coffee, one teaspoonful of cream of tartar, one scant teaspoonful of saleratus, one cup of raisins; flavor with nutmeg, cinnamon, and allspice. Put in enough flour to make as thick as pound-cake.

Preserving Milk.—If milk is brought just to the boiling point, then poured immediately into cans and sealed air-tight, it will keep indefinitely. As the air is expelled by boiling, the milk keeps just as canned goods do. If glass jars are used, they must be heated so that the boiling milk will not break them. Many families keep but one cow, and this plan will enable them to have milk during the weeks that she is dry.

Small Chicken Patties.—This is a very easy side dish to prepare. Roll out some light paste until about an inch thick, leave for a few minutes; after which, cut out your patties with a round bevelled tin cutter about two and a half inches in diameter; cut out the patty covers with a small cutter and bake for twenty minutes; scoop out the centre of the patties, fill them with either a puree of fowl, oysters, lobsters, shrimps, or forcemeat; warm them in the oven for a few minutes and serve very hot.

Pure Horse radish.—It is often asserted that the prepared horse-radish of the shops is adulterated with turnips and other materials. This is probably an error. It must be remembered that horse radish loses much of its strength after being ground and canned. If one could procure two cans fresh from the factory he could prove this statement for himself. Use one can immediately and set the other aside for two or three weeks. The contents of the older can will have a flat or insipid taste. It is always better to buy unprepared horse-radish if possible.

Broiling a Beef-steak.—The art of keeping the gravy in a beef steak when broiled is to pitch a little bit of fat in the fire, and then to hold the steak or chop a few seconds in the blaze, so that the ends of the tubes containing the gravy are closed or sealed, when it may be drawn down to the front or less fierce part of the fire, and if it be turned over there occasionally for fifteen, twenty or thirty minutes, according as to whether it be required to be "well done" or "underdone," the whole of the gravy will be there—if "well done," in a somewhat dried or candied form; if "underdone," in that form of red gravy which real connoisseurs prefer.

Books and Periodicals.

Any of the books here noticed can be had through our Publication House, 907 Arch Street.

Didley Dumps; or, John Ellard the Newsboy. By F. Ratchford Starr, M. A. Fifth edition, revised and enlarged. 12mo, cloth, illustrated, pp. 166. Price, 75 cents.

Newsboys constitute a peculiar species of the human family. City dwellers are often amused at their pranks or amazed at their audacity, and never feel quite sure that they may not be startled by some new development. Christian men have studied these waifs with the view to make them better, and this book is the record of such experiences. The author was among the pioneers in extending a helpful hand to the newsboys. He was their friend, and they knew it. Didley Dumps, the hero of this narrative, was a deformed newsboy of Philadelphia. His character, adventures, pranks, bright sayings and early end are sympathetically portrayed. With him in the Newsboys' Home were others of his kind, Several letters are inserted which are at once amusing and pathetic, as showing with what eyes such lads look at life. The book is valuable as a record of good work in a hard field. Every purchaser of the volume may feel that, while gratifying himself he is also contributing towards the help of the lads who have such a hard struggle, since the author generously donates all the royalty derived from the sale of the book to the "Newsboy's Aid Society" of Philadelphia. The author taught John Ellard a prayer, which the boy often uttered in his last sickness: "O God, please pardon my sins; give me a new heart, and fit me for heaven for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen." Published by the American Sunday-School Union, 1122 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, Pa., 8 and 10 Bible House, New York, and for sale by all booksellers.

Littell's Living Age, December 27, 1884. Contents: John de Witt, Quarterly Review; Beauty and the Beast, by Sarah Tytler, conclusion, Good Words; Samuel Johnson, Fortnightly Review; A Faithless World, Contemporary Review; Mr. Fawcett and the Blind, Saturday Review; An Inland Sea for Africa, All the Year Round; Thackeray's Autographs, Saturday Review; and poetry.

For fifty-two numbers of sixty four large pages each (or more than 3,300 pages a year) the subscription price ($8) is low; while for $10.50 the publishers offer to send any one of the American $4.00 monthlies or weeklies with the Living Age for a year, both postpaid. Littell & Co., Boston, are the publishers.

St. Nicholas for January. This capital winter number opens appropriately with a poem by Celia Thaxter, entitled "The Child and the Year." Another timely article is the breezy and exciting ice-yachting story by E. Vinton Blake, which introduces us to our old friends, the Dalzells; while John R. Coryell contributes a bright and home-like story, called "Baby Deb 'P'ays' for the Christmas Goose," which tells how the feast was kept in a New England light-house. ——"Historic Girls," a new companion series to "Historic Boys" by E. S. Brooks, is begun by the same author, in the same interesting style, with an account of the girlhood days of Queen Elizabeth, and the Christmas festivities at Hatfield House, three hundred years ago. J. T. Trowbridge continues his serial, because his hero, in spite of his hard experience, has not yet cured himself of "His One Fault;" "Davy and the Goblin" go through another instalment of the most surprising and illogical adventures; and Edmund Alton tells a great many more instructive and entertaining things he learned when he was a boy-page "Among the Law-makers."——Louisa M. Alcott and H. H. Boyesen bring their two very short serials to an end, but have, no doubt, others just as interesting ready to take their places very soon.——There is a spirited full-page picture of a very old-fashioned elephant with tusks curved the wrong way, by J. B. Nugent, and a description of it by C. F. Holder.——A. B. Frost contributes a jolly series of pictures to the Rev. Charles R. Talbot's funny poem, "The School-master and the Truants." There is also a wholesome out-door poem, by John Vance Cheney, called "For Bass-wood Chaps;" an "Art and Artists" paper, by Clara Erskine Clement, about Velasquez, with a reproduction of one of his most famous pictures, and a great deal besides of the same bright, healthful, and happy sort.

The January Number of Harper's Magazine is a worthy successor to the beautiful Christmas number.——The frontispiece is from one of the six drawings by E. A. Abbey, illustrating the Second Part of "She Stoops to Conquer."——*Apropos* of the five-hundredth anniversary of Wiclif's death, Mr. A. W. Ward contributes a sketch of the great reformer, which is beautifully illustrated. Mr. Ward's article is especially interesting from the light it throws upon the England of the fourteenth century.——Seymour Haden, in a very interesting paper, makes a strong plea for Mezzotint as a painter's art, preferring it to etching. His paper is illustrated by six pictures from his own drawings. These pictures all represent scenes and subjects connected with the Isle of Purbeck, and admirably well illustrate the following article on that island by Miss J. E. Panton.——Barnet Phillips contributes an entertaining account of a recent cruise off the west coast of Florida, with illustrations. ——Wordsworth's sonnet on Long Meg and her Daughters is beautifully illustrated from a drawing by Alfred Parsons.——"A Pair of Shoes" is the first of the promised series of papers on Great American Industries. It is a thorough exposition of the treatment of leather, of the shoe manufacture, and of the shoe trade, and is accompanied by graphic illustrations.——"The Rune of the 'Vega's' Rudder," a poem by Zadel B. Gustafson, is beautifully illustrated from drawings by Jessie Curtis Shepherd.——The strong feature of the number is the beginning of a new novel, entitled "East Angels," by Constance Fenimore Woolson, the author of "Anne." The scene is laid in Florida. Another serial novel, entitled "At the Red Glove," also begins in this number. The author's name is not given. It is a bright story, full of humor, located in Berne, Switzerland, and is illustrated by C. S. Reinhart.——Sarah Orne Jewett contributes a strong short story, "Farmer Pinch's Daughter," illustrated by Dielman. John Fiske contributes a paper on the "Town-meeting," the first of a series of three papers treating of American political ideas.——Poems are contributed by Walt Whitman and Wallace Bruce. Mr. Bruce's poem, "The Snow Angel," is based on an incident in the life of Larkin G. Meade, the distinguished American sculptor—an incident which suggested to Mr. Meade the idea of his statue of "The Snow Angel." The poem is illustrated by an effective full-page picture of the statue.——Mr. George William Curtis, in the Editor's Easy Chair, recalls Elia's charming essays on the New Year. Among the other subjects of the Chair are Sir Moses Montefiore, the Quaker Poet, recent literary biography, and a retrospect of the Georgian era. The Literary and the Historical Record are resumed, making full amends for their unwonted absence from the preceding number. The Drawer, besides a humorous article on the Scotch game of Curling and other amusing contributions, contains eight unusually interesting comic sketches by C. G. Bush, relating "Orlando's Christmas Adventure."

Married.

December 18th, in West Millville, Clarion county, Pa., at the residence of the bride's uncle, Mr. Wm. C. Sloan, by Rev. J. M. Evans, Mr. Thomas R. Slangenhoupt, of Curlsville, and Miss Laura J. Hepler, of Rimersburg, both of Clarion county, Pa.

In the Reformed Church at Keedysville, on the 16th inst., by Rev. A. C. Geary, Mr. Thomas J. Pry to Miss Irene A. Cast, both of Keedysville, Md.

On Thursday evening, December 18, 1884, by Rev. David Van Horne, D. D, at the First Reformed Church, Daniel Longaker, M. D., to Miss Maggie Pancoast, all of Philadelphia.

On Tuesday, December 23, 1884, by Rev. David Van Horne, D. D., Nathan Berkenstock to Hattie H. Lloyd, all of Philadelphia.

At the home of the bride, in Somerset township, Somerset county, Pa., on December 21st, 1884, by Rev. I. N. Burger, Mr. William M. Gohn, of Jenner township, to Miss Alice C. Beam.

At the Reformed parsonage, Walkersville, Md., on the 18th inst., by Rev. S. M. Hench, Mr. Cyrus A. Weddle and Miss Ida C. Crum, both of Frederick county, Md.

In East Pepperell, Mass., December 24th, by Rev. P. C. Sloper, Pastor Methodist Episcopal Church, Mr. Frank L. Thompson to Miss Sophia Swope, both of Washington, D. C. Bride formerly of Berlin, Pa.

Obituaries.

Tribute of Respect.

The following tribute of respect on the death of Miss Annie Geissinger were adopted by the officers and Teachers of the Reformed Sabbath-school of Huntingdon, Pa.:

Whereas, Almighty God in His wise Providence has removed from our midst Miss Annie Geissinger, a beloved friend and former member and teacher of our Sabbath-school; therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of our worthy friend this school and community mourn the loss of a young lady respected and beloved by all, one whose principles of love, duty and kindness endeared her to the hearts of the members of the school and citizens of the community.

Resolved, That our intercourse with our deceased sister has been so harmonious and pleasant that we recognize in her death not only a loss to the school and congregation, but the sundering of a link of pleasant Christian fellowship with each member of the Sabbath-school.

Resolved, That, while we mourn her death, we humbly bow in submission to Him who doeth all things well.

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt sympathy to her parents, sisters and brothers, in their hour of affliction and sorrow.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to the family of the deceased, and a copy be sent to our publication houses to be inserted in our church papers, also published in the Huntingdon papers.

Committee { James B. Carothers, Luther H. Smith, W. W. Moore, Annie W. Campbell, Annie Kunz.

Died.—On Wednesday, November 12, 1884, in Milford township, Somerset county, Pa., Margaret Walter, wife of Jacob J. Walter, aged 76 years, 3 months and 4 days.

Mother Walter was baptized in her infancy, and after arriving at years of maturity she was received by confirmation as a full member of the Reformed church, to which she remained a consistent member to the end of her life.

C. A. W.

Died.—On the 29th of November, near Lovettsville, Loudon county, Va., Michael Sanbower, aged 87 years, 9 months, and 5 days.

Father Sanbower, with his aged companion in life, who still survives him, was admitted to full communion in the Reformed Church at Lovettsville, Va., then under the pastoral care of Rev. George W. Williard. During these forty-one years of his membership he exemplified the virtues of the Christian character. He was ever faithful, while in health and strength, in his attendance upon the means of grace and contributed of his store to the maintenance of the Gospel of Christ. He was a man of sterling honesty and of unobtrusive piety. In all the sorrows and troubles incident to his long life he exhibited the grace of patience. In holy wedlock he had lived with his now widowed companion for a period of 63 years. He leaves three sons and four daughters with a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren to mourn his death. May they all follow his faith and enter at death into the joy of the saints on high.

R.

Died.—December 1, 1884, Willie H. Hamlin, aged 19 years, 8 months and 11 days.

It is with feelings of great sorrow and profound sympathy that we chronicle the death of this young man. Willie Hamlin was a man of promise. Though not yet fully matured into ripe manhood, he had already given bright evidence of becoming a man of great usefulness. His quick and ready mind, as well as his peculiar business qualifications, was only kept in abeyance by his lingering illness and his want of physical strength. Hoping, indeed, against hope, and ofttimes almost despairing of his health, he nevertheless was fully determined on entering some institution of learning, as soon as strength would permit, for the purpose of becoming the more fully equipped for the duties of life, with a thorough classical education. Being, however, frustrated for the time in this determination, he resolved to enter Business College, and by way of pastime learn the accountant art, while under medical treatment and the immediate care of a loving mother and kind friends.

Willie was, however, not engaged merely in the things of this world. Being trained from early childhood to seek after that higher wisdom found only in Jesus, the Saviour, he sought the Lord and found Him. As a catechumen, he was one of the most interesting and earnest in obtaining the knowledge of the requirements of true Christian character. He was not ashamed to publicly "renounce the world, the flesh and the devil," and to profess his faith in the Lord Jesus. He made the Reformed Church the church of his choice, and from that day to the end of life he remained faithful to the Lord. His dying prayers were the pure spiritual breathings of heaven, expressing the earnest hope that his friends would meet him in that better land, where sickness and weakness are unknown.

Of his qualities as a friend and companion, we need not speak. The large concourse of sympathizing and mourning people who paid their last tribute of respect at the funeral, as well as the special gloom cast upon the hearts of his numerous young friends, gives sufficient evidence of the universal esteem by which he was held by all who knew him. We would like to speak of him also as a son and a brother, but in doing so we feel we are touching something sacred to the family. How he had endeared himself to the parents and brothers and sisters can not be told; it can only be felt; and now that he is gone he has left only bright and happy memories for the immediate mourners. The community, as well as the Church, sympathize with the deeply afflicted mourners in this their irreparable loss. Our loss is his gain.

Rev. F. B. Hahn, late pastor of the Reformed Church, assisted by Rev. S. H. Eisenburg, the latter the new pastor of the church, conducted the funeral services.

Died.—Lou William, the infant and twin son of Milton and Ella Lenker, was born in Ogle county, Ill., August 27th, 1884, and died on the morning of December 16th, 1884, near Wilton, in Cedar county, Iowa, aged 3 months and 19 days.

To have a home blessed with two bright little boys at the same time is overjoyous; but to have it robbed of one of these sweet little darlings is almost more than the bravest heart can endure. The parents are weighed down with grief at the loss of one of their twins whom they had hoped would grow into manhood together, and be a blessing to themselves and the world. In their sorrow we direct them to the source of all comfort. May their wounds be healed by the soothing influence of the Spirit of God. Appropriate services were conducted in the Reformed Church by the writer, S. Z. R.

Died.—In Lewistown, Frederick county, Md., on October 5th, 1884, Samuel G. Remby, aged 57 years and 1 day.

Brother Remby was for many years an active member of the Reformed Church, first at Fairfield, Adams county, Pa., and afterwards at Utica Mills, Frederick county, Md. At the latter place he was a deacon of the congregation for a number of years. About the beginning of the present pastorate, five years ago, he moved to another portion of the state where there was no Reformed Church, but returned again after three or four years. Having been away from his own church and the means of grace for that time, he had become somewhat indifferent to the Church, until bodily affliction came upon him last Spring or Summer, when he was brought to consider and feel his neglect of his Christian duties, and confessed the same to God; and seeking mercy and grace he became satisfied that God had again restored him to His favor, and he was ready to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Desiring the Holy Communion once more, we administered the same to him while on his bed of affliction several days before his death. He passed away on October 5th in the joyful hope of a blessed immortality, and was buried in the Utica Cemetery on the 7th, the pastor in charge officiating. S. M. H.

Died.—In Frederick county, Md., on the 6th of November, 1884, Mrs. Amelia Cramer, aged 85 years.

Died.—In Frederick county, Md., on December 19th, 1884, Amos Cramer, in his 86th year. *Christian World*, please copy. S. M. H.

Acknowledgments.

Beneficiary Education.

The following beneficiary monies have been received since last reported, to wit:

From Rev F J Mohr, Quakertown,	$28 00
Rev G B Smith, Tinicum,	5 06
Rev A B Koplin, Lower Saucon,	25 00
Rev A F Ziegler, Kellers,	5 00
Rev N Z Snyder, South Bethlehem,	15 00
Total amount,	$78 06

I. G. Gerhart,
Treasurer Tohickon Classis.

Monies received by the Classis of Lehigh from April 20th, 1884, to December 18, 1884: Zion's charge, $135 10. Egypt chg, 173 85. Mahoning chg, 128 00. Jordan chg, 182 00. St John's, Allentown, 46 42. Salem's, Allentown, 65 82. Lenhartville chg, 70 50. Macungie chg, 97 25. Slatington chg, 64 07. Kutztown chg, 67 00. Zion's, Allentown, 151 42. Christ's, Allentown, 14 00. Emaus cong, 43 14. Blandon cong, 10 00. St Peter's cong, 9 00. Rev W E Krebs, 1 00. Total, $1,258 57.

N. S. Strassburger, Treasurer.
Allentown, Pa., December 18, 1884.

Bethany Orphans' Home.

Received from Mite Society 1st Ref Ch, Rev H Mosser, clothing,	$20 00
Ladies' Aid Society, Freeburg, Snyder Co, clothing (no est), per Miss A Moyer.	
Ladies' Aid Society, 1st Ref Ch, Phila, 10th and Wallace Sts, per Miss Addie Doll, 2 boxes,	15 00
Ladies' Aid Soc, 1st Ref Ch, cash,	19 34
Zion's Ref Ch, Allentown, Rev E A Gernant, 2 boxes of clothing,	64 00
Same cong, cash, from a number of members,	5 50
Salem's Ref Ch, Allentown, Rev A J G Dubbs,	20 00
A friend of the Home, Bridgetown, Bucks county,	2 00
Mrs Agnes Kohler, Luzerne county,	5 00
J C Bucher, D D, Lewisburg,	10 00
Friedensburg S S, per D D Hoch,	2 00
St John's Ref Ch, Allentown, S G Wagner, DD, box cakes.	
Mrs Catherine Small, Harrisburg,	50 00
Salem's Ref S S, Harrisburg, Rev W H H Snyder,	50 00
Grace and Getha Derr, Conyngham, each 1 00.	2 00
Nevin and Ruth Derr, do, each 50 cents.	1 00
Annville chg, J E Hiester, D D,	15 00
St John's Ref S S, Shamokin, Rev T J Hacker,	25 00
Goshenhoppen Ch, C Z Weiser, D D,	43 55
Salem's S S, Kensington, Phila, A C Delori ("Kirchenzeitung," please copy)	10 00
Mrs Hackler, Phila, do do,	2 00
W R Yeich, Treasurer of St Paul's cong, Reading, Thanksgiving offering,	11 77
Union Thanksgiving (German), do, Rev H Mosser,	4 75
Benevolent Society of St John's Ref cong, Quakertown, Rev F J Mohr, clothing,	40 55
S S of Bethlehem Ref Ch, Phila, Pa, Rev J G Neuber ("Kirchenzeitung," copy),	30 00
Joseph Young, Allentown,	100 00
W T Albert, Pueblo, Colorado,	4 00

D. B. Albright, Supt.

THE FRANK SIDDALLS SOAP

An Eminent Divine says:—"The Advancement of the World and the Spread of Civilization and Christianity depends on interchange of thought among people, and their willingness to learn, and that the Man or Woman who opposes the introduction of new improvements, the trial of new Ways and the use of new things, Should be condemned as not being good and useful members of Society

Send for Pamphlet mailed free

A celebrated writer of English literature was paid an enormous price for preparing this article: Children or Grown Persons—wishing to improve themselves in composition or letter writing should carefully read the entire page and note the ingenuity by which so much information has been given in so small a space.

AND NOW IF NOT SET IN YOUR OLD WAYS
be sure to try The Frank Siddalls Soap for Toilet—Bath—Shaving—try it for Washing Dishes—for House-cleaning—for Scrubbing—and be sure to try
The Frank Siddalls Way of Washing Clothes.

Every subscriber to this paper is specially interested in reading the whole of this page, each line is important to every Man Woman and Child or it would not be published but would be omitted, and so reduce the cost of the Advertisement

and Remember there is nothing Stated Here But The Simple Truth

How a Lady can get the Soap to Try
At Places where it is Not Sold at the Stores:
Send the retail price 10 cents in money or postage stamps.
Say she saw the advertisement in the "Messenger."
Only send for one cake and make these 2 promises:
Promise No. 1—That the Soap shall be used *the first wash-day after receiving it*, and that *every bit of the family wash shall be done with it.*
Promise No. 2—That *the person sending will personally see* that the printed directions for using the Soap shall be *exactly* followed.
By return mail a regular 10-cent cake of Soap will be sent, *postage prepaid;* it will be packed in a neat iron box to make it carry safely, and 15 cents in Postage Stamps will be put on:—
All this is done for 10 cents
because it is believed to be a cheaper way to introduce it than to send salesmen to sell it to the stores

If your letter gets no attention, it will be because you have NOT made the promises, or because you have sent for more than one cake.
Make the promises very plain, or the Soap will NOT be sent.
A Cake will be sent Free of Charge to the Wife of a Grocer, the Wife of a Minister or the Wife of a Physician if the above TWO promises are made,
but will NOT be sent if the promises are NOT made.

SPECIAL PREMIUM TO THE WIVES OF GROCERS A most Magnificent Premium can be had by the Wife of every Grocer in the United States.

The Premium is a very handsome Velvet Plush Case, containing 6 beautiful Heavy Plated Silver Knives and 6 Forks, manufactured specially for this purpose, and guaranteed to be the finest quality made.

The Premium is given to the Wife of a Grocer even if her husband does not sell The Frank Siddalls Soap

It will be sent *after* she has made a *Thorough Trial* of the Soap, and enough Soap to make the trial will be sent *Free of Charge.*

The Wife of a Grocer who desires to get this Valuable Premium *MUST FIRST* try a cake of The Frank Siddalls Soap on the whole of the regular family wash *strictly by the very easy directions,* and then send word by mail to the office in Philadelphia, together with business card or printed advertisement of some kind to show that her husband is a grocer, or send a bill for groceries bought of some wholesale grocer. If not, a cake will be sent by mail, *FREE OF CHARGE,* if the 2 promises are made.

If you sell the Soap you can get a cake out of the store to try:—

The Premium is NOT sent until AFTER a thorough trial of The Frank Siddalls Soap has been made, and no letters from any one asking for information about the Premium will be answered until AFTER the Soap has been used.

Listen to what Nasby says:—
A man or woman who fights against improvements
or will not try them, is a clam:—so. Dont be a clam
but try The Frank Siddalls Soap for shaving and for toilet;
try it for every use that soap is put to
Petroleum V. Nasby—

And now let every Man and Woman set aside prejudice and try The Frank Siddalls Soap.

Persons who allow articles said to be as good as The Frank Siddalls Soap to be forced on them must expect to be deceived
SEE THAT YOU GET WHAT YOU ASK FOR

In directing Letters to prominent business houses it is NOT necessary to put either Street or Number on the Envelope. Address all communications as follows:

OFFICE OF
FRANK SIDDALLS SOAP
PHILADELPHIA
PA

If so directed they are immediately, on reaching the Philadelphia Post-Office, put in our Lock Drawer and brought to our office by our own Private Messenger, thus avoiding any delay or any danger of wrong delivery.

Never let Mick away the Wash Boiler!
No Rivetting with Frank Siddalls Soap!
Centrepost Grate old Baker Sam
we can keep ashes in it!

"THE MESSENGER"
authorizes the statement that a thorough test of The Frank Siddalls Soap for Toilet, Laundry, and General Household Uses *in the houses of gentlemen connected with its staff* proves it to be everything claimed.

WILL CURE INGROWING TOE NAILS *by merely pressing a little of The Frank Siddalls Soap between the nail and tender flesh*

Will cure Itching Piles so quickly as to seem almost miraculous, giving relief as soon as applied.

DONT BE A CLAM

Even a person of only ordinary intelligence will know for certain that a Soap that is excellent for the Skin cannot possibly hurt clothes

for Cleaning House

Clams are not a proper model for human beings to copy after for they open their shells to take in their accustomed food, *but they shut up very tight when anything new comes along*
FOR THEY ARE CLAMS
and dont propose to allow things to penetrate their shells that were unknown to their grandfather clams and to their grandmother clams

for Toilet and Bath

A Clam is not a good thing for a Housekeeper to copy after:—
A Clam is not a good thing for a Farmer to copy after:—is not a good thing for a Grocer to copy after:—
A WIDE-AWAKE HOUSEKEEPER will try new ways *that are endorsed by leading newspapers*
A WIDE-AWAKE FARMER will try a Butter Worker and a Hay Fork
A WIDE-AWAKE GROCER will buy the kind of goods his customers call for
A WIDE-AWAKE MAN always wants to try the Soap he sees highly recommended for Toilet, Bath and Shaving.

Of course a woman is NOT expected to try *every* new thing that is offered her; but when *the most reliable papers in the United States emphatically endorse in the strongest manner* every claim made for The Frank Siddalls Soap, there is certainly no excuse for not giving it one square, honest trial strictly as directed. Intelligent women are adopting The Frank Siddalls Way of Washing Clothes, *and those who have done so are already beginning to look down with pity on persons who are set in their old ways:*—**SO DONT BE A CLAM**

—FOR THE TOILET IT IS SIMPLY PERFECTION—

All Perfumes are injurious to the Skin; *The Frank Siddalls Soap is not perfumed,* but has an agreeable odor from its ingredients that is always pleasant, even to an invalid; it never leaves any odor on the skin; the face never has any of the unpleasant gloss that other soaps produce; it should always be used for washing the hands and face of those troubled with chapped skin; *a child will not dread having its face washed when this Soap is used* as it does not cause the eyes to smart with the dreaded intense sting that even Imported Castile soap often causes; it always leaves the Skin soft and smooth; wash your baby with it.

No tooth-powder or tooth-wash will compare with it.
A little on the tooth-brush makes the mouth, teeth and gums perfectly clean.
It leaves a pleasant, aromatic taste, a sweet breath, and a clean tooth-brush.

It is especially adapted for toilet use with the hard water of the West and in Lake-water

Persons who despise a musty Sponge or Wash-rag will appreciate The Frank Siddalls Soap. Whenever either a Sponge or Wash-rag has a disagreeable smell it is due entirely to the so-called fine toilet soap that is such a favorite with you. It is the place of Soap to keep a Sponge or Wash-rag sweet and clean, and The Frank Siddalls Soap will do it without any occasion to expose it to the air or sun.

—Try it for washing your Eye-Glasses and Spectacles—

When used for washing the head it is better than Shampooing; plenty of the rich white lather should be left in the hair *(not washed out)*; it entirely does away with the use of Hair Tonic, Bay Rum, Bandoline, Pomade, or any hair dressing. Used this way it removes dandruff, the hair will not collect dust, and there will not be any itching of the scalp: **Coat Collars, Hat Linings and Neck-wear will keep clean much longer.**

The Frank Siddalls Soap is superior to Benzine or Ammonia for cleaning Coat Collars, and for removing Grease Spots, etc., and is guaranteed not to injure the garment.

—ODD USES—QUAINT USES—SPECIAL USES—

Eminent Physicians claim that Skin Diseases, such as Ringworm, Salt Rheum, Tetter, Pimples on the face, etc., are caused by soap made from rancid grease:—
Use The Frank Siddalls Soap and avoid all such troubles.

Artificial Teeth and Artificial Eyes will retain their original brilliancy unimpaired when kept washed with The Frank Siddalls Soap.

It washes Telescope Lenses and Photographers' Plates without any possibility of scratching them, *while it is being used with the most gratifying results in Schools of Design for washing expensive brushes used by the students*

For washing Pearls, Coral, Diamonds, Jewelry, Gold and Silver Plate, and for cleaning Watch Crystals, it is considered by Jewelers superior to any powder or other preparation.

Wash your Dog with The Frank Siddalls Soap; leave plenty of the lather in its hair, and you will be surprised at the improvement; a dog washed with this Soap will not have fleas.

Use it for taking grease spots out of fine carpets and for cleaning rag carpets; also for cleaning garments of every description. It is better than benzine or hartshorn for cleaning clothing, *and is guaranteed not to injure the fabric.*

***Use it for wiping off Oil Cloths, Linoleum, etc.*—IT KEEPS THE COLORS BRIGHT—** *and as it does away with scrubbing them, they will of course last much longer.*

The hands of those at farm-work, when The Frank Siddalls Soap is used, *will not chap* from husking corn, driving teams, and other out-door employment, *but of course* home-made soap, toilet soap, or any other kind, MUST NOT BE USED, **(*not even Castile Soap*)**

It is invaluable to Farmers for washing wool before carding it or before selling it.

Milk Pans, Churns, and all Milk Utensils, when washed with The Frank Siddalls Soap, will be as clean and sweet as new, and do NOT require scalding or putting in the sun. It also THOROUGHLY removes the smell from the hands after milking.

FOR LADIES TO READ

ONLY THINK! ONE SOAP FOR ALL USES!

To the Housekeeper and her Help, to the Boarding-house Mistress and her Lady Boarders, to the Farmer's Wife and her Daughters, for the Toilet and Bath of every Lady of Refinement, The Frank Siddalls Soap offers great advantages.

Among the Housekeepers of New England (where thrifty housekeeping is proverbial) it has gained immense favor, and there is no better evidence of the merits of an article than to be able to say that it meets approval in the Homes of New England.

—FOR LAUNDRY AND KITCHEN USE—

JUST THINK! No Scalding or Boiling! No Smell on Wash-day!
Clothes Clean and Beautifully White, and as Sweet as if never worn!
No Rough, Red Hands! Clothes remain White even if put away for years!
The Soap Positively Guaranteed not to Injure even the Finest Laces!

Where water or fuel is scarce, *remember that with The Frank Siddalls Soap* **much less fuel,** *is necessary and* **a few buckets of water** *is enough for a large wash*

JUST THINK! Flannels and Blankets as Soft as when New!
The most delicate Colored Lawns and Prints actually Brightened!
A girl of 12 or 13 can easily do a large wash without even being tired!
And best of all, the wash done in less than half the usual time!

Use The Frank Siddalls Soap for washing Dishes:—it is the only Soap that leaves the dish-rag Sweet and White, and the only Soap that can be depended upon to remove the Smell of Fish, Onions, etc., from Forks and Dishes. When you have a dirty dish-rag, dont blame your servants; *it is not their fault;* for you have given them soap made of rancid grease, and the result is a foul dish-rag; use The Frank Siddalls Soap, made of Pure Beef Suet, and you will have a clean sweet smelling cloth. So here is the Housekeeper's choice:
Common Soap and a foul dish-rag—or—The Frank Siddalls Soap and a dish-rag to be proud of

—FOR HOUSE-CLEANING—

This is where The Frank Siddalls Soap appeals to the real ladylike Housekeeper. Use it for Scrubbing and Cleaning. Use it for washing Paints, Windows and Mirrors, Wine-glasses, Goblets, and all Glass Vessels; *ordinary Soap, as is well known, is not fit for washing glass,* while The Frank Siddalls Soap is a most elegant thing for this purpose and does away with the Use of Ammonia.

Use it for washing Marble Door Steps, Bureau Tops, Marble Statuary, Mantlepieces, etc. *It is the nicest thing for Marble that can be imagined.*

For washing Bed Clothes, and Bedding, even of Patients with Contagious and Infectious Diseases, and for washing Utensils used in the Sick-room, it can be relied on to cleanse and purify without scalding or boiling a single article.

—FOR WASHING BABIES AND BABY CLOTHES—

Babies will not suffer with Prickly Heat, or be trouble with sores of any kind, when nothing but The Frank Siddalls Soap is used, its ingredients being so Pure and Mild.

Dont use Soda for washing Nursing Bottles or Gum Tubes *dont even scald them:*—**wash them only with this Soap, and they will never get sour, but will always be sweet and clean.**

—FOR THE SCHOOL TEACHER—

It is the best thing for washing blackboards and school slates, leaving them free from grease; the Soap does not even have to be rinsed off. *Blackboards that are considered worthless can be restored by washing with The Frank Siddalls Soap.*

FOR MEN TO READ

ONLY THINK! ONE SOAP FOR ALL USES!

The Merchant and his Clerk, the Photographer, the Optician, the Artist, the Jeweler, the Printer, the Bather at the Turkish Bath, the Barber, the Hotel, the Stable, the Army and the Navy, will all reap great benefit from the The Frank Siddalls Soap.

—FOR SHAVING—

Its heavy, lasting lather is so different from that of any Shaving Soap that its superiority is almost incredible; the face never burns or smarts, no matter how dull the razor, how tender the skin, or how closely shaved, *and the Sponge and Soap Cup will always be sweet-smelling.*

—IMPORTANT FOR SHIPBOARD AND ARMY USE—

It washes freely in hard water, and be sure to remember, where water is scarce, that The Frank Siddalls Way of Washing only takes a few buckets of water for a large wash.

—FOR HORSES, HARNESS, CARRIAGES, etc.—

It is vastly superior to Castile Soap for washing a horse's mane and tail, while for washing Sores, Galls, Scratches, etc., *it is indispensable.* No Stable is complete without it. For Harness it is better than Harness Soap, thoroughly cleansing the leather and rendering it soft and pliable, while for washing Cars and Car Windows, cleaning the running-gear and bodies of fine carriages, *it is without a rival;* by its use Paint and Varnish will last much longer, and the Windows and Lamps will be as clear as crystal

The Frank Siddal's Soap is elegant for washing Printing Ink from the hands, and from Printers' Rollers, Type and Electrotypes, being much better than Benzine, and safer, as shocking accidents by fire often occur from Benzine; and Parents whose children use Amateur Printing Presses should remember this. Type and Rollers washed with The Frank Siddalls Soap are in splendid condition for immediate use, and will take the ink readily.

SPECIAL FOR PHYSICIANS

To the Physician, the Druggist, the Nurse and the Patient its importance is becoming more and more widely known and appreciated, and it is rapidly superseding Imported Castile and similar soaps for use in the Sick-room, the Nursery and the Hospital.

A CERTAIN CURE*—IN CASE OF INGROWING TOE-NAILS—*A CERTAIN CURE **in place of cotton-wool a little of The Frank Siddalls Soap should be kept pressed between the nail and tender flesh—one trial will prove its superiority over cotton-wool.**

—AS AN ANTISEPTIC AND DISINFECTANT—

For washing Old Running Sores, Bed Sores, Cuts, Wounds and Burns; for washing Chafed Places on Infants and Adults; for use by persons suffering with Tetter, Ringworm, Salt Rheum, Itching Piles, Eruptions on the Face, and for children afflicted with Scaly Incrustations, it is without any of the injurious effects so often experienced when other soap is used; while for washing the Invalid it is a most valuable aid to the Physician, by the thoroughness with which it removes the exhalations from the skin that would otherwise tend to counteract the action of his medicines by closing up the pores, and which cannot be accomplished by any other soap.

Letters from well-known Physicians, describing their experience in their practice with The Frank Siddalls Soap, leave no doubt of the truth of these assertions.

Use it for washing Sores on the Feet, caused by walking or wearing tight shoes. Always leave plenty of the lather on—dont rinse the lather off.

For washing Graduate Measures and Mortars it is better than anything else.

Although it seems strange to use for Toilet, Shaving, &c. the same kind of Soap that is recommended for kitchen use, still sensible people know that the world moves, and will be glad to try The Frank Siddalls Soap.

And now if not set in your ways
try The Frank Siddalls Way of Washing Clothes

How to tell a Person of Refinement
A Person of Refinement will be glad to adopt a New, Easy, Clean Way of Washing Clothes, in place of the old, hard sloppy way.

How to tell a Person of Intelligence
A Person of Intelligence will have no difficulty in understanding and following the very easy and sensible directions.

How to tell a Person of Honor
A Person of Honor will scorn to do so mean a thing as to buy the Soap and not follow the directions so strongly urged.

How to tell Sensible Persons
Sensible Persons will not get mad when new and improved ways are brought to their notice, but will feel thankful that their attention has been directed to better methods.

And now dont get the old wash-boiler mended, but next wash-day give one honest trial to The Frank Siddalls Way of Washing Clothes.

Only One Cake must be sent for,
but after trying it, dealers will buy it from their wholesale houses to accommodate you, or you can order direct from the Factory.
You must NOT send for more than one cake:
If a friend wants to try it, she must send in a separate letter.

It is guaranteed that The Frank Siddalls Soap is now sold by Wholesale Grocers in every city in the United States. If the store you deal with does not keep it try elsewhere.

And Now for the Clean, Neat, Easy, Genteel, Ladylike FRANK SIDDALLS WAY OF WASHING CLOTHES

There is nothing intricate about these directions:—any child 10 or 12 years of age—who has common sense—will have no trouble in following them:

A Wash-boiler MUST NOT be used, *NOT EVEN TO HEAT THE WASH-WATER,* and as the wash-water must only be lukewarm, a small kettle holds enough for a large wash.

A Wash-boiler will have a deposit formed on it from the atmosphere, *in spite of the most careful housekeeper,* which injures the delicate ingredients that are in this Soap

Be sure to heat the water in the Tea-Kettle the first time, *no matter how odd it seems.*

Wash the White Flannels with the other White Pieces.

Be sure to always make the last water soapy; the clothes will NOT smell of the Soap, but will be as sweet as if never worn, and stains that have been overlooked in washing will bleach out while drying, and the clothes will iron easier.

Always dissolve a small piece of Soap in the starch; it makes the ironing easier and the clothes handsomer

The Frank Siddalls Soap washes freely in hard water without Soda, Lye, or any washing compound.

Dont use Borax, Ammonia, or any other soap on any of the wash.

FIRST—Dip one of the garments in a tub of lukewarm water; draw it out on a wash-board, and rub the Soap LIGHTLY over it so as not to waste it, being particular not to miss soaping any of the soiled places.

Then ROLL IT IN A TIGHT ROLL, just as a piece is rolled when it is sprinkled for ironing, lay it in the bottom of the tub under the water, and go on the same way until all the pieces have the Soap rubbed on them and are rolled up.

Then go away for 20 minutes to one hour—by the clock—and let The Frank Siddalls Soap do its work.

NEXT—After soaking the FULL time, commence rubbing the clothes LIGHTLY on a wash-board AND THE DIRT WILL DROP OUT; turn the garments inside out to get at the seams, *but dont use any more Soap;* DONT SCALD OR BOIL A SINGLE PIECE, OR THEY WILL TURN YELLOW; and DONT wash through two suds. If the wash-water gets too dirty, dip some out and add a little clean water; if it gets too cold for the hands, add some hot water out of the tea-kettle.

If a Streak is hard to wash, rub some more Soap on it and throw the piece back into the suds for a few minutes.

NEXT COMES THE RINSING—which is to be done in lukewarm water, AND IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF GETTING THE DIRTY SUDS OUT, and is to be done as follows; Wash each piece LIGHTLY on a wash-board through the rinse-water (*without using any more Soap,*) AND SEE THAT ALL THE DIRTY SUDS ARE GOT OUT. ANY SMART HOUSEKEEPER WILL KNOW JUST HOW TO DO THIS.

NEXT, the Blue-water, which can be either lukewarm or cold: Use little or no Blueing, for this Soap takes the place of Blueing. STIR A PIECE OF THE SOAP in the Blue-water UNTIL THE WATER GETS DECIDEDLY SOAPY. Put the clothes THROUGH THIS SOAPY BLUE-WATER, wring them, and hang up to dry WITHOUT ANY MORE RINSING and WITHOUT SCALDING or BOILING A SINGLE PIECE.

Afterwards soap the Colored Pieces and Colored Flannels, let them stand 20 minutes to 1 hour, and wash the same way as the white pieces, being sure to make the last rinse-water soapy.

THE MOST DELICATE COLORS WILL NOT FADE WHEN WASHED THIS WAY, BUT WILL BE THE BRIGHTER.

Offices of The Frank Siddalls Soap, 1019 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

PHILADELPHIA MARKETS.

Wholesale Prices.

MONDAY, December 29, 1884.

FLOUR.—We quote the whole range of prices as follows: Supers, $2.25@2.50; winter extras, $2.50@3; Pennsylvania family, $3.20@3.50; do, roller process, $3.75@4.25; Western winter clears, $3 50@4.25; straights, $4@4 50; winter patent, $4.25@5; Minnesota clear, $3.25@3.75; do straight, $3.75@4 25; patent, $4.50@5.25, chiefly $4.75@5. Rye Flour was quiet at $3.50 ℔ barrel for choice Pennsylvania. Buckwheat Flour continued dull at $2@2.15 ℔ 100 lbs, as to quality, for round lots.

WHEAT.—Sales of 3600 bushels No. 2 Delaware red in elevator at 84½c.; closing at 85c. bid; 2400 bushels No. 1 red at 87½c., closing at 87½@88c., with No. 3 red quoted at 74c.; and No. 2 red spot at 80¼@80½c., with 79¾c. asked early for December, but closing at 80½c. bid and 80¾c. asked; 80c. asked early for January, but closing at 81c. bid and 81¼c. asked.

CORN.—Sales of 3000 bushels No. 3 mixed track at 46½@47c.; 2400 bushels steamer No. 2 mixed track at 48c., offered in export elevator at 47c.; 600 bushels steamer No. 2 yellow in grain depot at 49c.; 1200 bushels steamer No. 2 yellow in grain depot at 48½c.; 1800 bushels No. 2 yellow in grain depot at 49c.; 600 bushels No. 1 yellow in grain depot at 49c., with 49c. bid and 51c. asked for No. 2 mixed December, and 25 000 bushels No. 2 mixed January at 46½c., closing at 46¾c. bid and 47c. asked.

OATS.—Sales of 2 cars rejected white at 31@32c.; 1 car No. 2 mixed at 32½c.; 1 car No. 3 white at 33½c.; 3 cars No. 2 do at 34½c., 3 cars do. do. on track at 35c., and 1 car fancy ungraded do. at 37c., with 33¾c. bid and 34½c. asked for January.

RYE was nominally steady at 63@65c. ℔ bushel.

PROVISIONS.—We quote Mess Pork at $13@13.50; clear Pork, $15@15.50; family Pork, $14@14.50; shoulders in salt, fully cured, 6@6½c.; do. partly cured, 5@5½c.; do smoked, 7@7½c.; pickled shoulders, cured, 6½@6¾c.; do smoked, 7½@8c.; breakfast bacon, 9@9½c. Loose Butchers' Lard, 6½c.; prime steam do, 7c.; city refined do, 8c.; Beef Hams, $19.50@20; Dried Beef, 15@16c.; Sweet pickled hams, 9½@9¾c., in tierces, as to average for fully cured, and 8¾@9¼c. for fresh packed; smoked hams, 10½@11½c., as to average. City family beef, $13.50@14. City Tallow, in hogsheads, 6@6½c.

POULTRY.—We quote live old hens at 9c.; mixed lots, 8c.; roosters, 6c.; Ducks, 10@11c.; Turkeys, 11@12c.; Geese, 9@10c. Dressed Chickens: Extra at 12c.; do choice, 10c.; do medium, 8@9c.; do, Turkeys, extra, 15c.; choice, 14c.; medium, 11@12c., and Ducks, 10@13c., as to quality, and Geese, 12@13c. for choice to extra; medium, 9@11c.

BUTTER.—We quote Pennsylvania and Western creamery extras at 31@32c.; the latter for favorite marks; do do good to prime, 25@28c; do fair, 18@22c.; Western dairy choice, 24@25c.; do firsts, 20@22c.; Bradford county fresh tubs, 27c.; firsts, 23@24c.; do seconds, 18@20c.; rolls, medium to choice, 15@20c., very few choice here; packing grades, common, 7@9c.; medium, 10@13c.; grease, 4@6c.; creamery prints, fancy, 34@35c.; good to choice, 30@33c.; fair, 24@28c.; dairy prints, 18@30c., as to quality.

EGGS.—We quote Pennsylvania and near-by extras at 31c. Western extras were quoted nominally at 30c. Occasional sales were made as high as 27@28c. Limed were quiet and steady at 20c.

CHEESE.—We quote New York full cream choice at 12¾@13c.; good to prime, 11½@12½c.; Ohio flat choice, 11¾c.; do prime, 11¼c.; do fair to good, 8½@10c.; Pennsylvania part skims, prime to fancy, 5@6½c.; selections, 7c.; do full skims, fresh arrivals, 3½@4½c., and old skims, ½@1c.

REFINED SUGARS.—We quote confectioners' powdered at 6 7–16c; grocers' do at 6¼@6⅜c; granulated at 6c.; Crown A at 6¼c.; crystal A, at 5 15-16c., and confectioners' A at 6 11-16c.

PETROLEUM continued quiet and steady at 7¾c. for 70 Abel test in barrels, and 9¼c. for 110 test in cases.

HAY AND STRAW.—We quote New York and Western Timothy choice at $16@16.50; No. 1 do, $14@15; common do, $12@13. Rye Straw was dull at 18@19c., the latter for straight without wood.

SEEDS.—We quote Clover at 6¾@7¼c. ℔ lb, as to quality; Timothy at $1.40@1.45℔ bushel, and Flax at $1.46 bid for pure.

FEED.—We quote winter Bran at $15.50@16, as to quality, and note sales of 2 cars fair to prime at $15.50@15.75.

ROYAL

BAKING POWDER

Absolutely Pure.

This powder never varies. A marvel of purity, strength and wholesomeness. More economical than the ordinary kinds, and cannot be sold in competition with the multitude of lowest, short weight, alum or phosphate powders.

Sold only in cans. Royal Baking Powder Co., New York.

Send to H. H. Carter, wholesale stationer, 3 Beacon St., Boston, for samples of cards, paper and envelopes

ATMORE'S PLUM PUDDING is the Best.

BARLOW'S INDICO BLUE

Its merits as a WASH BLUE have been fully tested and indorsed by thousands of housekeepers. You Grocer ought to have it on Sale. Ask him for it. D. F. WILTBERGER, Prop., 232 N. 2d St., Phila., Pa.

LANDRETH'S SEEDS

THE BEST. DAVID LANDRETH & SONS, 21 and 23 S. Sixth Street, Philada.

$65 A MONTH and Board for 3 live Young Men or Ladies in each county. Address P. W. Ziegler & Co., Philad'a. Pa.

RIDGWAY REFRIGERATOR.

1518 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

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PEARLINE

The BEST COMPOUND *EVER INVENTED FOR* WASHING CLOTHING

and everything else, in Hard or Soft Water, without danger to fabric or hands.

Saves Labor, Time, and Soap, amazingly, and is of great value to housekeepers. Sold by all Grocers—but see that vile Counterfeits are not urged upon you. PEARLINE is the only safe article, and always bears the name of JAMES PYLE, New York.

WONDERFUL CURES

Effected by the use of this Water, in

DYSPEPSIA Rheumatic Gout AND ALL **KIDNEY** and Urinary Affections.

Send for pamphlet of testimonials.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE: 1123 Arch St., Philadelphia.

BIRCH'S WILL WIND KEY ANY WATCH **AND NOT WEAR OUT**

SOLD by watchmakers. By mail 25c. Circulars free. J. S. BIRCH & Co., 38 Dey St., N. Y

If washday is a trouble at your house, persuade your wife to try The Frank Siddalls Soap One time, just by the direction - try it yourself for toilet -

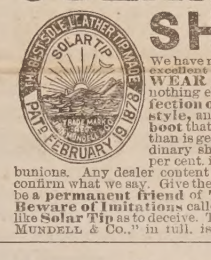
No Waste. No Trouble. Always Ready. A GOOD SALAD ASSURED.

Rich, Wholesome, Nutritious

The most *delicious* and the most *popular* Mayonaise for all kinds of SALADS, RAW TOMATOES, CABBAGE, COLD MEATS, FISH, etc., ever sold.

E. R. DURKEE & CO., NEW YORK.

SOLAR TIP SHOES



We have made a specialty of this excellent SHOE for Boys' WEAR for years. We make nothing else, and produce perfection of fit, comfort, good style, and the best wearing boot that is made. Cost no more than is generally charged for ordinary shoes, and will save 50 per cent. in wear. No corns, no bunions. Any dealer content with a fair profit will confirm what we say. Give them a trial, and you will be a permanent friend of THE SOLAR TIP. Beware of Imitations called by names so nearly like Solar Tip as to deceive. Trade-mark and "JOHN MUNDELL & Co." in full, is on sole of each pair.

If your wife uses The Frank Siddalls Soap, get her to let you have some to try for Shaving: - it makes the best lather of any soap known

SILK PIECES FOR PATCHWORK, 75 pieces, nearly all different, of elegant Silks and Velvets—makes a full yard—sent postpaid, for $1.00. The best one dollar package put up. J. L. PATTEN, 38 W. 14th St., N. Y.

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All who have read "Through the Winter" will welcome this book.

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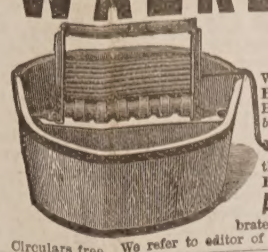

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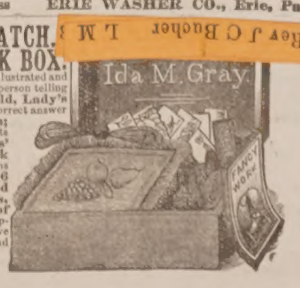

The publishers of the Capitol City Home Guest, the well-known, illustrated and Family Magazine, make the following liberal offer for the New Year: The person telling us the longest verse in the Bible, before March 1st, will receive a Solid Gold, Lady's Hunting Cased Swiss Watch, worth $50. If there be more than one correct answer the second will receive an elegant Stem-winding Gentleman's Watch; the third, a key-winding English Watch. Each person must send 36 cents with their answer for which they will receive FREE, postpaid, three months' subscription to "HOME GUEST," and an Elegant Lady's Work Box with their name beautifully stenciled on the cover. Each box contains 1 Silver Plated Thimble, 1 package Fancy Work Needles, 6 elegant Fruit Napkins, 1 package Embroidery Silk, assorted colors, 1 package Silk Blocks for Patchwork, 2 Easter Cards, 2 New Year Cards, 1 Lovely Birthday Card, and 1 Copy of "Ladies' Fancy Work Guide," containing illustrations and descriptions of all the latest designs in fancy work. The regular price of the above articles is $1.25, but to those who comply with the above requirements we will send them all prepaid for 36cts. Publ'rs Home Guest, Hartford, Conn.

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YOU will find upon examination that my stock of Pianos and Organs equals in variety, that of all the other houses in the city combined, and at prices much lower.

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